6

GHOST HUNT

Manga by Shiho Inada

Story by Fuyumi Ono

tanoshimi

GHOST HUNT 6

Shiho Inada
Fuyumi Ono

MANSION OF MALICE

The brave investigators of Shibuya Psychic Research must unravel a strange mystery. People are vanishing in a peculiar mansion. Eerie manifestations abound from the moment the team enters the house. Stairways lead to nowhere . . . windows open, but not to the outside . . . there are doors in the ceiling . . . and, scariest of all, something very sinister is awaiting its next victim. As the disappearances escalate one by one, beware and be forewarned: Don't wander off alone – or you could be next!

Includes special extras after the story!

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KODANSHA

GRAPHIC NOVEL

6
GHOST HUNT
Manga by Shiho Inada
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STORY BY FUYUMI ONO

TRANSLATED BY EGAN LOO

ADAPTED BY DAVID WALSH

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

LONDON

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DON'T I KNOW HER SISTER FROM SOMEWHERE?

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Tanoshimi Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics, and, more important, how they differ from English honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei" or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Tanoshimi not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Tanoshimi Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid".

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "-sempai," and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten on these lists, but is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of license. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can also be insulting.

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FROM THE
EVIL SPIRIT SERIES

GHOST HUNT

6

THE BLOODSTAINED LABYRINTH

GHOST HUNT

THIS IS WHAT SPR IS ALL ABOUT!

WHERE'S THE CASE NOW...?

SPR INVESTIGATED AND EXORCISED A POLTERGEIST PHENOMENON AT AN OLD MANSION, AND PREVIOUSLY SOLVED A SUPERNATURAL INCIDENT THAT CAUSED CHAOS AND PANIC AT A HIGH SCHOOL.

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH (SPR)

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO SCIENTIFICALLY RESEARCH AND SUBDUE UNEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENA

THE MEMBERS ARE...

WHEN SPR HAD INVESTIGATED MAI'S SCHOOL ON A PAST CASE, THESE MEMBERS JOINED FORCES TO EXORCISE IT.

MASAKO HARA

A PSYCHIC MEDIUM. SHE IS WELL KNOWN IN THE PSYCHIC INDUSTRY.

LIN-SAN

NARU'S ENIGMATIC ASSOCIATE.

JOHN BROWN

AN EXORCIST WHO SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT.

AYAKO MATSUZAKI

A SELF-CLAIMED "MIKO."

HOUSHOU TAKIGAWA

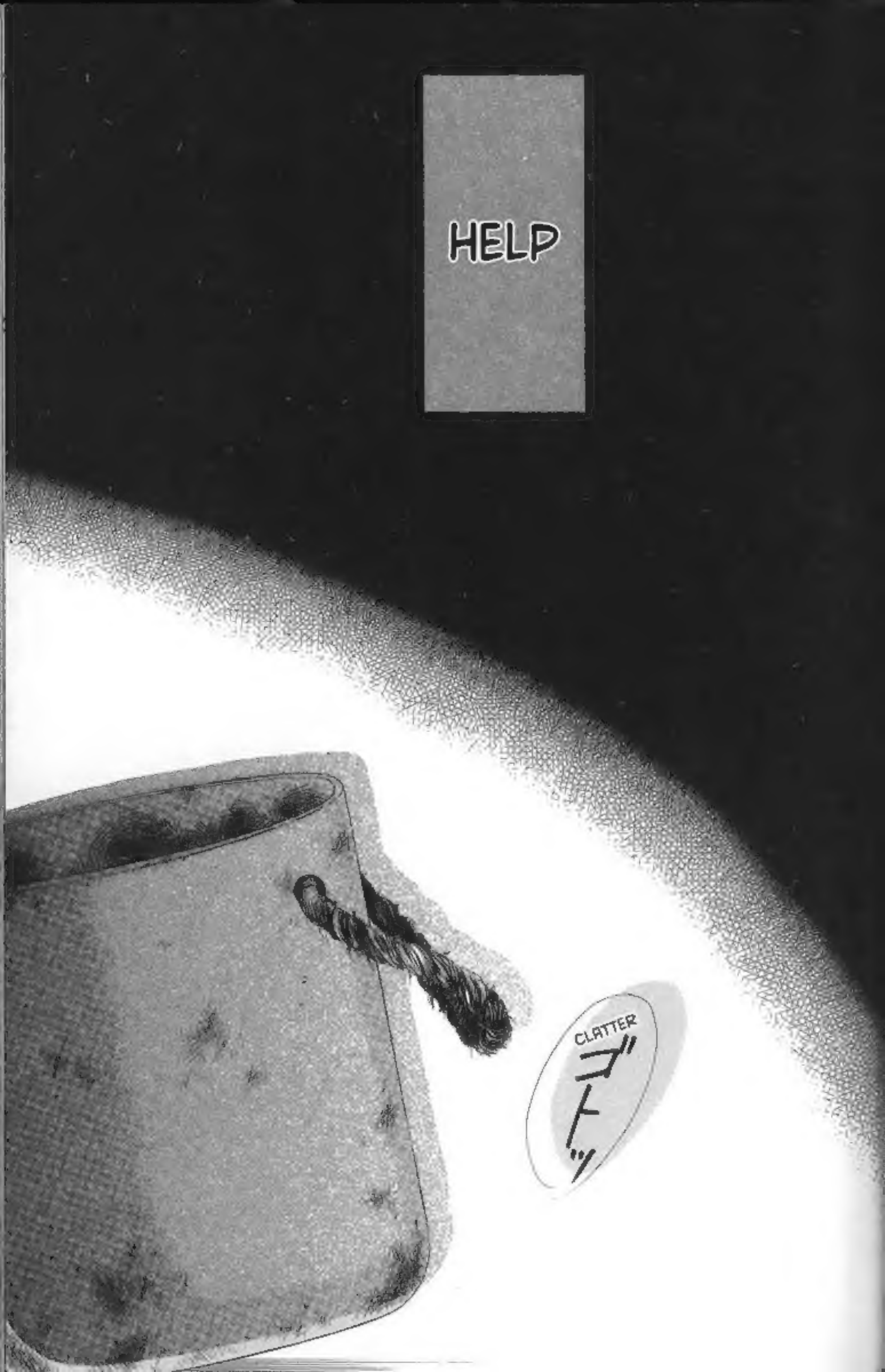
FORMERLY A MONK AT MT. KOUYA/

SPR PRESIDENT: KAZUYA SHIBUYA (AKA NARU)

17 YEARS OLD. HE'S COOL-HEADED, GOOD-LOOKING, AND SMART, BUT HE'S A SUPER NARCISSIST. SO HE HAS BEEN NICKNAMED NARU (SHORT FOR NARCISSIST).

MAI TANIYAMA

A LIVELY 16-YEAR-OLD STUDENT WHO WORKS PART-TIME AT SPR. ENTHUSIASTIC, ALTHOUGH NARU ALWAYS GIVES HER A HARD TIME. (SHE'S ONLY SEEN NARU SMILE IN HER DREAMS!) BUT SHE MAY SECRETLY BE IN LOVE WITH HIM♡!


HELP
CLATTER
ゴトッ

HELP

HELP

HELP

HELP

HELP...

HELP ...

HELP ME

I DON'T
WANT
TO DIE

GHOST HUNT 6

THE BLOODSTAINED LABYRINTH

FILE 1

WHOA
THIS IS BREATHTAKING
IS THERE REALLY A MANSION LIKE THIS IN JAPAN...?
HELLO, I'M MAI TANIYAMA. THIS SPRING, I STARTED MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT HIGH SCHOOL.
...BUT AS FOR MY JOB, IT STILL HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT.

WE RECEIVED A CALL TO INVESTIGATE THIS MANSION.
THE MEMBERS OF OUR SPR OFFICE ARE KAZUYA "NARU" SHIBUYA,
AND HIS ASSIS-TANT, LIN-SAN...
OUR CLOSE COLLABORA-TORS MONK-SAN, AYAKO, AND JOHN...
IT MAY BE BREATHTAKING, BUT IT'S STILL A HAUNTED MANSION.
OBVIOUSLY. WE WOULDN'T BE HERE OTHERWISE.
I KNOW THAT.
AND... YASUHARA-SAN!?
I SEE YOU TWO HAVEN'T CHANGED.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE SUDDEN ATTITUDE, YOU JERK!!?
SIGH
HUHP WHY ARE YOU HERE?
THEY REMIND ME OF A CAT AND MOUSE CARTOON.
YEAH!? YOU'RE TRYING TO PISS ME OFF!
OWW! I WAS ONLY BEING HON-EST!
STOP IT..

HELLO...

カラン CREAK

PLEASE COME IN. MAY I HELP YOU?

ガバ STAND

GRIN

SHE'S GORGEOUS!

UH...

I'M SORRY, MOST EVERYONE'S OUT RIGHT NOW.

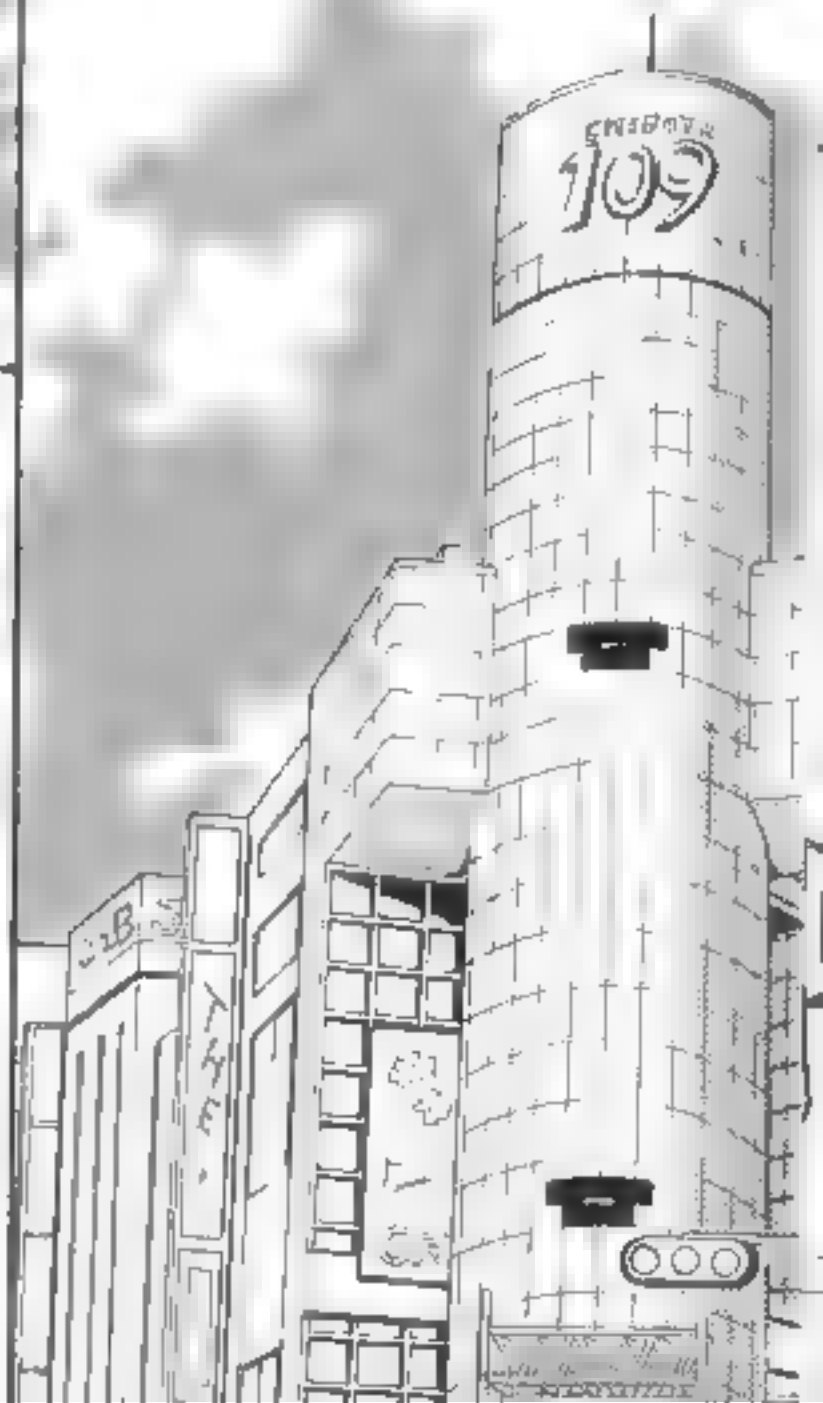
RUSTLE RUSTLE

YIKES...

I HAVE A MEETING TODAY WITH SOMEONE IN THIS OFFICE.

WE JUST MET HIM ON OUR LAST CASE, SO WHAT IS YASUHARA-SAN DOING HERE ?

FIVE DAYS EARLIER...



リン

LIN?

IS LIN HERE?

WELL, THEN...

YOU CAN CALL ME MADOKA.

OH, I'M SORRY. I'M MORI. MADOKA MORI.

GRIN にこ

UH, LIN-SAN?

LIN-...SAN IS IN...

UH... PARDON ME...

WHOA

LIN!

IF NOW'S A GOOD TIME...

LIN-SAN!

PLEASE WAIT A MOMEN –

UH... LM.

SLAM

I'M GOOD. WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL AHEAD?

SORRY FOR SURPRISING YOU LIKE THIS. HOW ARE YOU?

DID I CATCH YOU OFF GUARD?

YEAH.

I GUESS THIS IS A BIT OF A SHOCK.

WHA

MADOKA...?

.....

!!

DID HE JUST SMILE?

...WAIT

BUT THAT CAN'T BE WHY YOU CAME.

YOU DID.

I SEE...

HE'S ON A TRIP.

LOVE SPARKLES

COULD SHE BE LIN'S...

OOOH!

UH...UM...

ANYWAY

IS NARU IN?

THEN PLEASE CALL HIM.
IT'S FOR BUSINESS.
UH-HUH.
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND.
OKAY.
OH THANK YOU. ♡
HERE YOU ARE.
IT'S NARU, FOR YOU.
PLEASE HOLD ON, I'LL TRANSFER YOU.
OKAY...
OH, HOW SAD FOR HIM...
NARU MUST BE BADGERING HIM MERCILESSLY.

BUT YOU WILL COME HOME?

OKAY, I SEE...

YES?

はら WOOSH

WOOSH はら

はら WOOSH

はら WOOSH

COME BACK HOME. ♡

HELLO, NARU?

KLIK カチッ☆

YES, HE'LL BE BACK TONIGHT.

H-

HE'S COMING BACK FOR YOU!?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

THAT'S AMAZING...

NARU LISTENED TO YOU?

WHOA.

THANK YOU. ♡

UH-HUH. WHAT YOU JUST DID WAS UNBELIEVABLE.
EXCEPT FOR WORK, OF COURSE.
NARU AND LIN NEVER SEEM TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE...
AH! THE PART-TIME WORKER, TANIYAMA.
POOF
HMM, YOU MUST BE...
THAT'S R GHT.
STRICTLY SPEAKING, I'M THEIR MASTER.
HOW?
...MORI-SAN, HOW DO YOU KNOW THEM?
SRY..
HA HA HA
I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT NARU HOW TO "GHOST HUNT."

BUT HOW COULD SOMEONE SO GENTLE BE NARU'S SENSEI?
CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DIDN'T TEACH HIM SOME MANNERS.
YOU
DOT!
UWAA
UWAA
THERE WAS NO REASON TO THINK THAT NARU WAS BORN A GHOST HUNTER...
WHA-!?
I GUESS...
HUH? WHAT ABOUT LIN-SAN...?
H-HOW ABOUT LIN-SAN...
UM, WE...
WHY AM I FEELING SHY?
I...
...REALLY DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT NARU.

WHAT?

SO, THE NEXT DAY ...

BUT...

BUT HE'S STILL POUTING

OH! TAN-YAMA-SAAAN.

HE DID COME BACK.

HUH? FOR BUSINESS?

BECAUSE NARU-CHAN CALLED US IN.

WHY IS EVERYONE ELSE HERE?

OH! MONK-SAN, YOU CUT YOUR HAIR!

SO I DID ..

A CLIENT HAS OFFERED US A NEW CASE.

I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR EVERYONE'S HELP.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO TAKE THE CASE, BUT VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE IT UNAVOIDABLE.

THE CLIENT HAS ASKED US TO USE OUR UTMOST DISCRETION. IF THE PRESS HEARS ABOUT IT, IT'LL BECOME A MEDIA CIRCUS.

IT'S A BIG CASE TO TAKE ON.

THEN MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO SOLVE THIS ONE ON YOUR OWN?

I ALREADY RECEIVED THIS CASE LAST WEEK.

IS THIS THE ONE OHASHI-SAN BROUGHT TO YOU?

HELLO.

SWING

カチャ

OF COURSE, YOU'LL HAVE MY FULL COOPERATION.

SMILE

にっこり

HEY!

WHA-!!?

SO, I'VE ASKED YASUHARA-SAN TO BE MY STAND-IN.

I PERSONALLY WANT TO AVOID ALL CONTACT WITH THE MEDIA...

-ANY-WAY...

AND THE MEDIA WILL FLOCK ONCE THEY GET A WHIFF OF SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS GOING ON.

THE CLIENT HAS APPARENTLY CALLED TOGETHER OTHER MEDIUMS...

IF IT WASN'T TRUE, I WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED YASUHARA-SAN TO COME.

I KNOW YOU HATE THE PRESS...

BUT TO THE POINT THAT YOU NEED AN IMPERSONATOR?

OH...

I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IF I CAN HELP IT.

HEY...

...NOW!

ENOUGH!

WHY CAN'T YOU EVER ASK FOR A FAVOR PROPERLY?

WHOA

SO...

IF SOMETHING'S DISTASTEFUL TO YOU, YOU DUMP IT ON SOMEONE ELSE?

IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED, DO YOU THINK I'D CARE IF YOU LEFT RIGHT NOW?

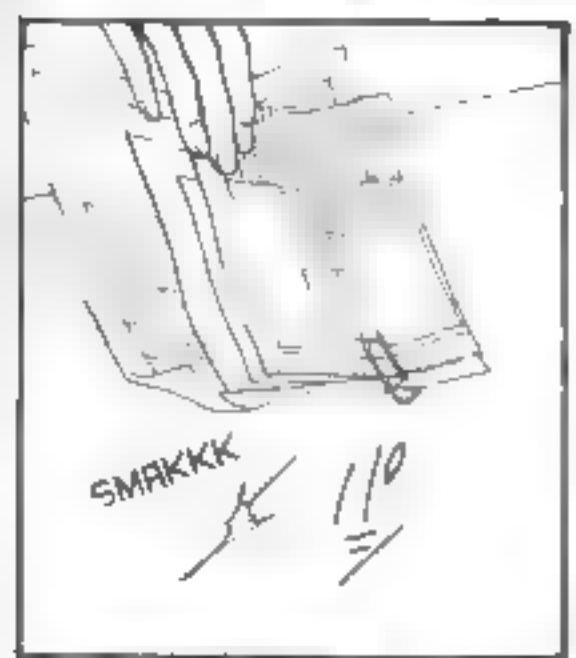
YOU ALWAYS TALK LIKE A SELFISH BRAT!

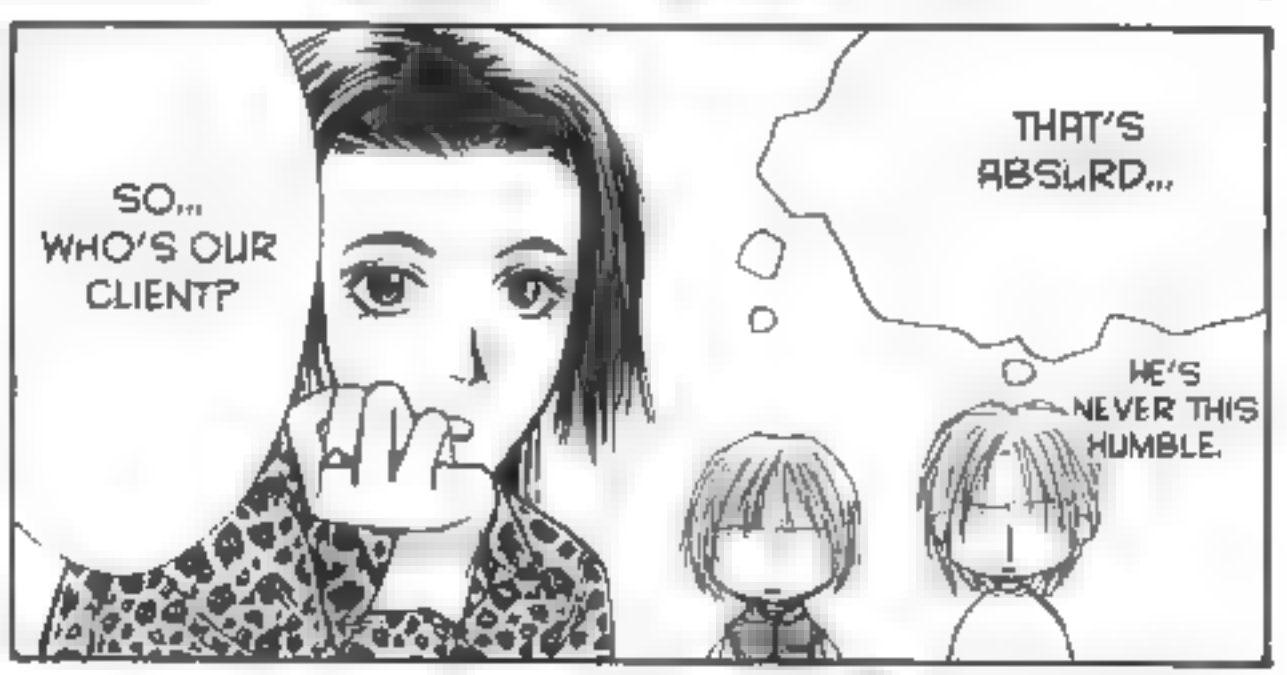
IS THAT THE TONE WE USE WHEN ASKING PEOPLE FOR FAVORS?

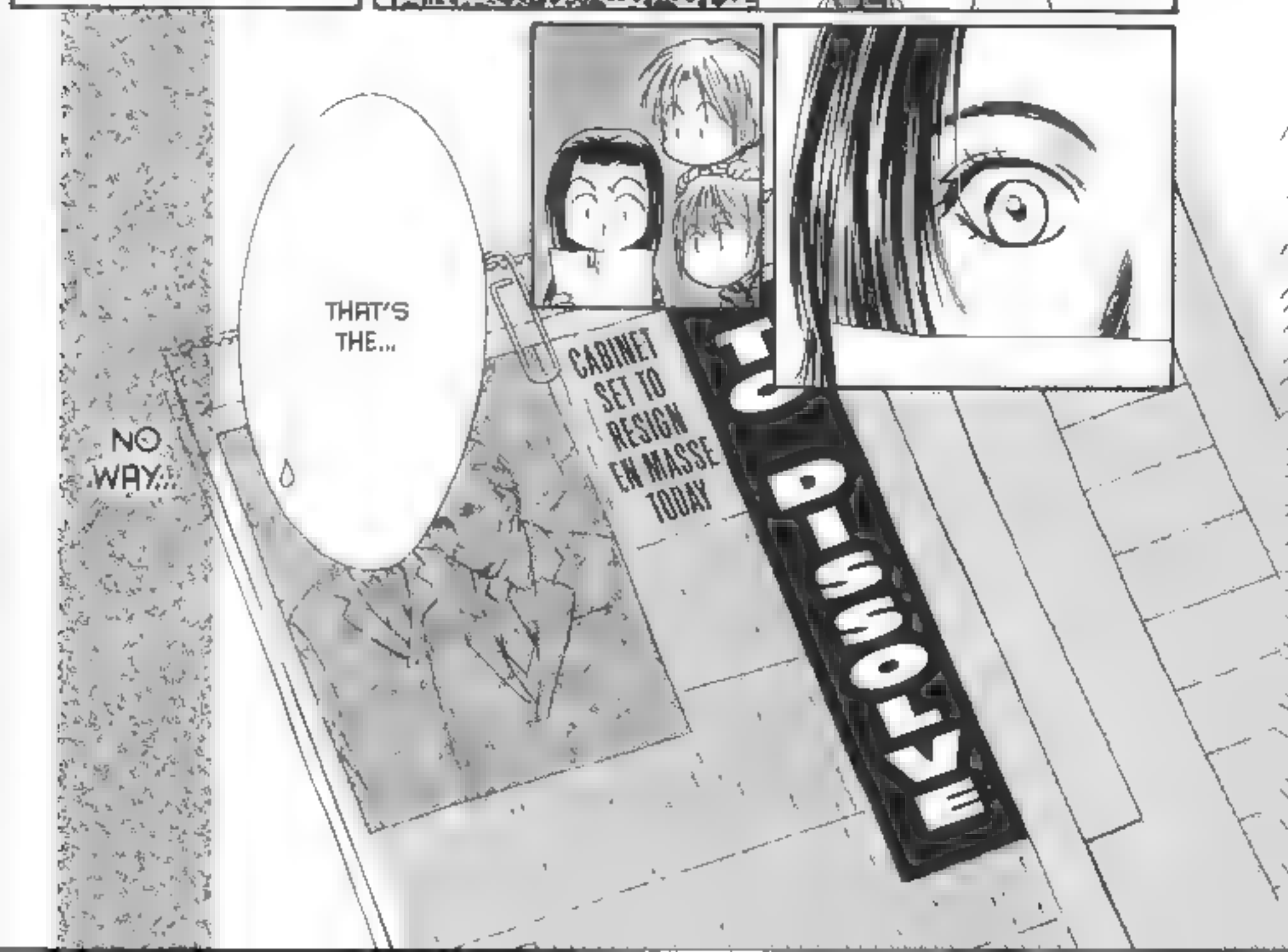
最 AWESOME 強…。
HMMPH.
SO WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
NARU HATES TO MAKE A BIG SHOW OF THINGS.
BUT HE'S TAKING THIS ON AS A FAVOR TO ME.
HE'S REFUSED CASES SIMILAR TO THIS IN THE PAST...
BOW ぺこ
DEEP BOWING
WE INSIST.
I HUMBLY REQUEST YOUR AS-SISTANCE.
I KNOW THIS WILL BE A GREAT INCONVE-NIENCE FOR EVERYONE...

THIS T ME I'M JUST A MERE INVESTIGATOR

HUH? BUT...
I'M CONFUSED, NARU. WHAT WILL YOUR ROLE BE?


SMAKKK


SO... WHO'S OUR CLIENT?
THAT'S ABSURD...
HE'S NEVER THIS HUMBLE.


THAT'S THE...
NO WAY...
CABINET SET TO RESIGN EN MASSE TODAY
EXPLOSIVE

WE FOUND OUR-SELVES HERE.

AND THAT'S ALSO HOW...

SO THAT'S WHY IT'S HUSH-HUSH.

THE CLIENT IS THE PRIME MINISTER.

PLEASE CONSIDER ME JUST ANOTHER CLIENT.

I WILL GRANT YOU FULL AUTHORITY ON THIS CASE.

WHY AM I SO NERVOUS?

SHE HAS A TWITCH

WELCOME, AND THANK YOU FOR COMING.

MY NAME IS OHASHI.

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU—

I HEARD THAT YOU WERE EXTREMELY YOUNG.

INCIDENTALLY, YOUR PRESIDENT IS...?

OH, THAT WOULD BE ME.

I AM THE PRESIDENT, KAZUYA SHIBUYA.

THEY ARE ALL MEDIUMS WHO ARE ALSO CLOSE ACQUAINTANCES OF MINE.

I ASKED FOR THEIR COOPERATION ON THIS CASE.

AND I'M JOHN BROWN.

I'M AYAKO MATSUZAKI.

UH, MY NAME IS HOUSHOU TAKIGAWA.

WHAT'S HE GOING TO SAY?

GLANCE

THESE THREE ARE MY ASSISTANTS.

I'M MAI TANIYAMA.

WHO'S THAT?....

MY NAME IS KOUJO LIN.

MY NAME IS KAZUO...

...NARUMI.

WHATTT!!?

REALLY!?

ARE YOU FROM CHINA?

ORIGINALLY, HONG KONG.

SHUT UP.

WELL, THAT SOLVES ONE MYSTERY.

VERY WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.

I KNOW THEY DON'T ALL LOOK LIKE JOHN-SAN, BUT...

UNBELIEVABLE HE'S A FOREIGNER?

GULP.

AS.

IN...

STARING

RIN TIN TIN-CHAN...

IS THAT HIS FAMILY NAME OR HIS GIVEN NAME?

I MEAN, WOULDN'T IT BE KINDA SAD TO BE BORN WITH THAT NAME?

NOTHING, I'VE JUST ALWAYS WONDERED WHERE "LIN" OR "RIN" CAME FROM.

HUH?

UH, RIGHT!

PLEASE COME THIS WAY.

IDIOT

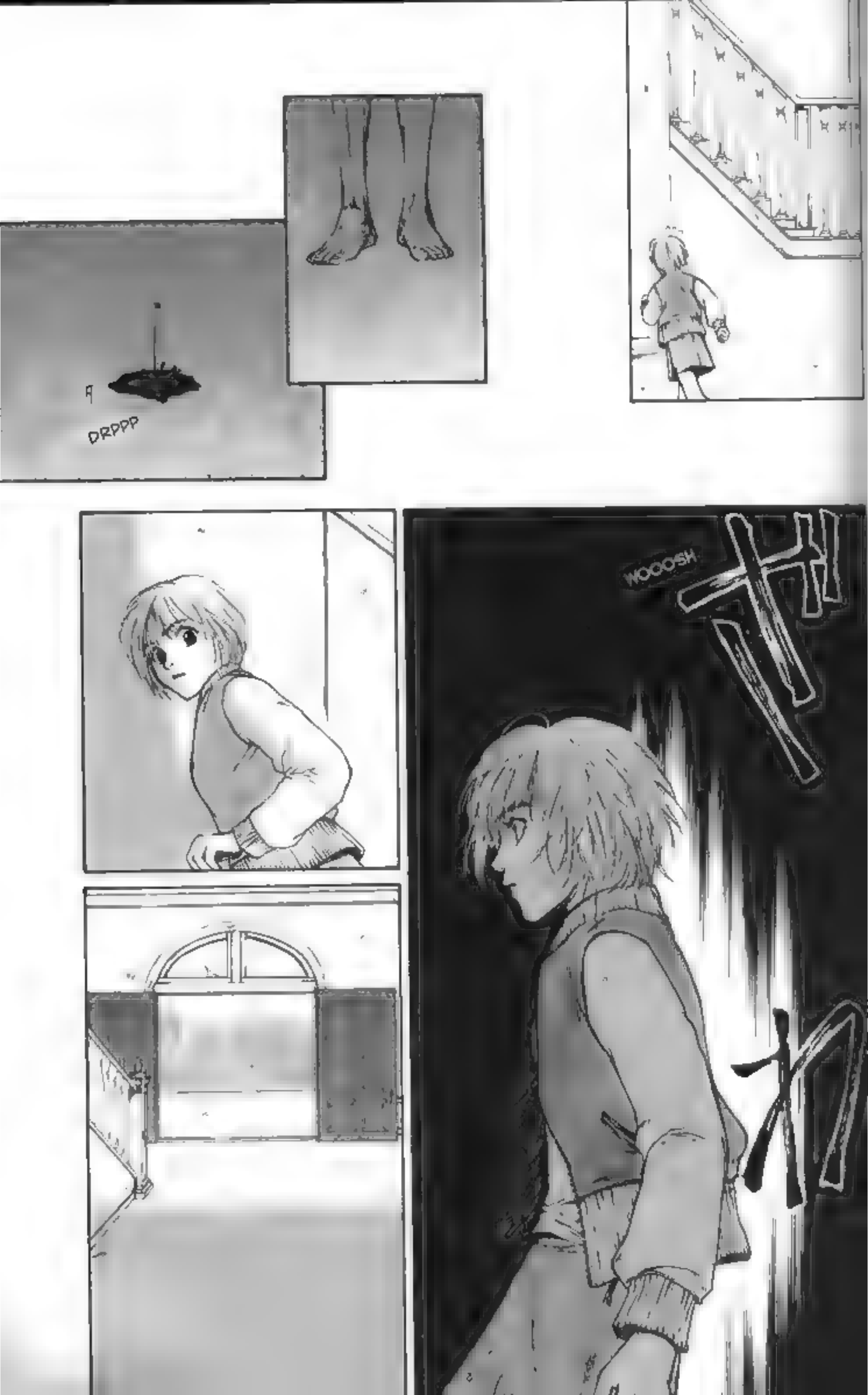
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S HILARIOUS?

HEE HEE HEE HEE

HEE HEE

STOP IT!

THEY'D BETTER NOT HEAR US!


DRPPP
WOOOSH

FOR A MOMENT...

... I GOT GOOSE BUMPS.

GRDDD

WHAT'S WRONG?

OH, NOTHING...

UH...

REALLY

AND I SMELLED SOME-THING STRANGE...

TO BEGIN...

I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE EVERYONE WHOM I ASKED TO COME.

MASAKO HARA-SAMA, A MEDIUM.

CHIE IGARASHI-SENSEI, A NATIONAL DEFENSE ACADEMY PROFESSOR...

AND HER ASSISTANT, NAOKO SUZUKI-SAMA.

HOUSEN TEMPLE'S CHIEF PRIEST, KENSHOU IMURA-SAMA.

AND HIS EMPLOYEES, HIDEO ATSUGI-SAMA, YUKIE SHIRAISHI-SAMA, AND MIWA FUKUDA-SAMA.

REIMEI MINAMI-SAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE MINAMI PSYCHIC RESEARCH CENTER...

AND THEIR OBSERVER...

GRIN

RUSTLE

DR. OLIVER DAVIS OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH.

REALLY?

NO WAY...

THE RESEARCHER FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH, OR "SPR"?

THAT'S DR. DAVIS...?

HE'S A LEGEND AMONG THOSE WHO POSSESS PK AND ESP POWERS.

WHOA

UNBELIEV-ABLE. TO BE ABLE TO MEET HIM HERE...

YOU THINK HE'LL DEMONSTRATE PK OR ANYTHING ELSE TO US?

HEY, HEY, HEY.

MAN, WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE SUCH AN IDIOT?

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

...AMAZING... THE ORIGINAL SPR IS HERE.

DAZED

MONK-SAN?

HEY

WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE RESPECT THESE CONDITIONS.

YOU MAY RETIRE OR RETURN TO YOUR QUARTERS AT ANY TIME, BUT... WE CANNOT PERMIT YOU TO LEAVE THE PREMISES.

DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR INVESTIGATIONS ON OUR BEHALF, YOU MAY STAY HERE.

HA HA HA

AND IF THE SITUATION SHOULD GET EVEN WORSE, I CAN ALWAYS CALL ON ALEX TAUNUS, URI GELLER, OR SOMEONE ELSE/

YOU CAN COUNT ON US/

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE DR. DAVIS.

THAT MINAMI-SAN IS AMAZING.

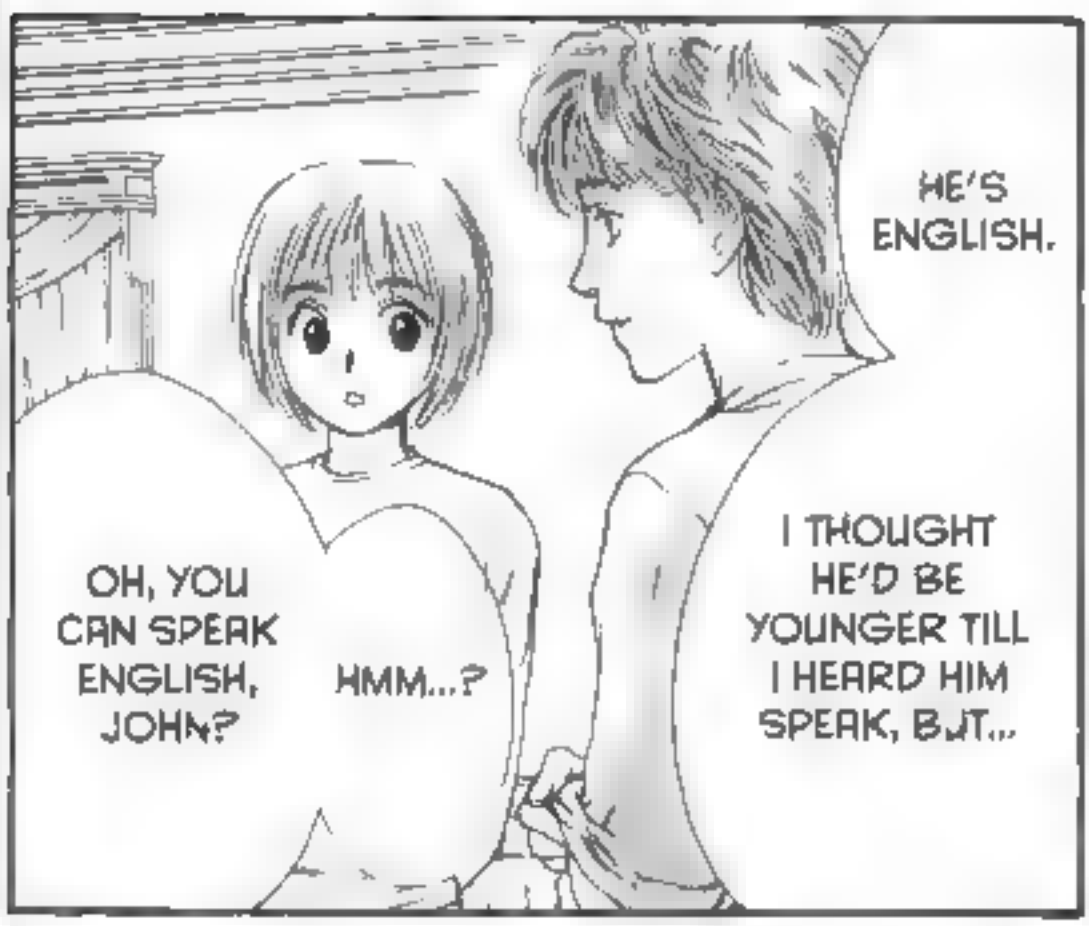
HE KNOWS SO MANY FAMOUS PEOPLE.

HERE YOU GO.

YEP.

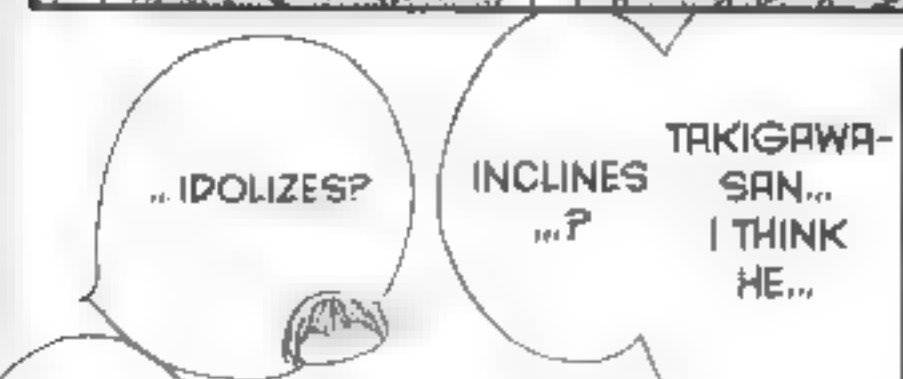
HE SURE DOES.

OUR BASE WILL BE IN THIS ROOM!


OH, YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH, JOHN?
HMM...?
HE'S ENGLISH.
I THOUGHT HE'D BE YOUNGER TILL I HEARD HIM SPEAK, BUT...

WHERE IS HE FROM? AMERICA?
OF COURSE.
BUT, I DON'T KNOW DR. DAVIS PERSONALLY.
CLICK CLACK CLICK

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
MY COUNTRY...
...INVENTED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.


...IDOLIZES?
INCLINES ...?
TAKIGAWA-SAN... I THINK HE...

DAZED
UNFAZED
THAT'S RIGHT. HE IDOLIZES THE DOCTOR.
WOW! THAT EXPLAINS THAT EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE!
MY POINT IS, HE'S A HUGE FAN.

TAKIGAWA-SAN WAS SURPRISED TOO.
SO HE'S REALLY THAT DOCTOR?
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S NOTHING... I CAN DO A LITTLE INTERPRETING FOR YOU.
AHA-HA HA HA.

HUH?
YASUHARA-SAN!?
OH, WOULD YOU MIND ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS, OHASHI-SAN?
YES, IT WILL, THANK YOU.
ARE YOU SURE THIS ROOM WILL BE SUFFICIENT?
YOU'VE BROUGHT SOME REMARKABLE EQUIPMENT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
LET'S BEGIN...
ABSOLUTELY. FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ANYTHING.
COULD YOU CONFIRM THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE?
PLEASE...
YES, SIR.
NARUMI-KUN, WOULD YOU MIND...
OH, RIGHT...

WHO ORIGINALLY ERECTED THIS BUILDING...

WE KNOW IT WAS YOUR WIFE'S GRANDFATHER...

OKAY.

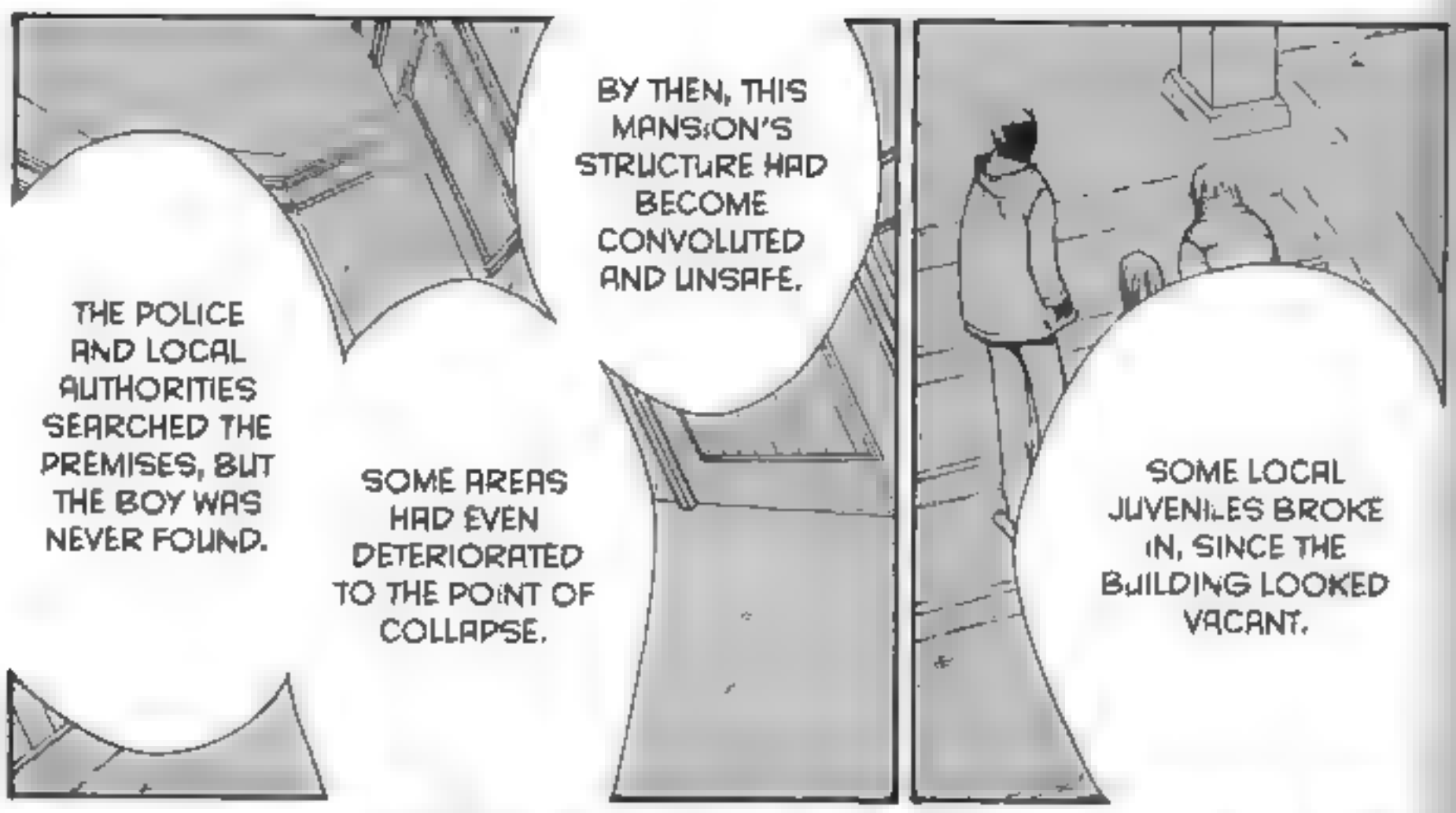
...OR SO WE'RE TOLD.

...BUT, APPARENTLY, NOT YOUR WIFE, YOUR WIFE'S FATHER, OR ANYONE ELSE FROM THEIR FAMILY EVER LIVED HERE...

RUMOR HAS IT THAT A SPIRIT APPEARED.

...BUT THEN TWO MONTHS AGO, A BOY VANISHED FROM HERE.

AS TIME PASSED, IT WAS FORGOTTEN...


THE POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES SEARCHED THE PREMISES, BUT THE BOY WAS NEVER FOUND.
SOME AREAS HAD EVEN DETERIORATED TO THE POINT OF COLLAPSE.
BY THEN, THIS MANSION'S STRUCTURE HAD BECOME CONVOLUTED AND UNSAFE.
SOME LOCAL JUVENILES BROKE IN, SINCE THE BUILDING LOOKED VACANT.

THEN SEVERAL PEOPLE CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN HUMAN APPARITIONS IN THE MANSION.
ACTUALLY, EVEN BEFORE THIS, IT'S REPORTED THAT DURING RENOVATIONS, WORKERS HAD ALSO DISAPPEARED.
YOUR WIFE'S FATHER SUPPOSEDLY WROTE IN HIS WILL—
"THEY GAVE THEIR ALL TO THIS MANSION, AND IT'S HERE THEY SHALL REMAIN..."
AND THERE'S MORE.
DURING THE SEARCH, A YOUNG FIREFIGHTER ALSO VANISHED.

"...UNTIL THEY ROT."

WHEN TWO MORE PEOPLE DISAPPEARED, TERRIBLE RUMORS BEGAN TO SPREAD.

HOWEVER...

...I CALLED UPON YOU MEDIUMS TO RESOLVE THIS.

TO PREVENT FURTHER INCIDENTS...

I UNDER-STAND.

MEIJI 10...

WE CAN SEE THAT THIS IS A VERY OLD BUILDING, BUT DO YOU KNOW THE EXACT YEAR IT WAS BUILT?

WE HEARD THAT CONSTRUCTION STARTED AROUND THE YEAR MEIJI 10.

...IS THE YEAR 1877, RIGHT?

EVEN THOUGH NO ONE LIVES HERE?

WHY EVERY YEAR?

THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW.

WHAT WAS YOUR WIFE'S GRANDFATHER LIKE?

HIS NAME WAS KANEYUKI MIYAMA-SAMA.

HE OWNED A LARGE PLOT OF LAND IN THE SUWA REGION.

HE BUILT A SILK-SPINNING FACTORY AND THEN EVENTUALLY DEVOTED HIMSELF TO PHILANTHROPY.

...THAT HARDLY ANYTHING REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE.

THIS BUILDING IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN RENOVATED SO MUCH...

IT SEEMS THAT YOUR WIFE'S FATHER...

HAS DONE SOME SORT OF RENOVATION EVERY YEAR SINCE HIS FATHER BUILT IT.

HE PASSED AWAY THREE YEARS LATER.

...AND HAD TO SHUT DOWN HIS HOSPITALS AND OTHER INTERESTS.

THEN IN THE FINANCIAL PANIC OF MEIJI 40...THAT IS, 1907, HE LOST MUCH OF HIS BUSINESS...

I HEAR HE BUILT ORPHANAGES AND CHARITY HOSPITALS.

YES, HE DID.

DID KANEYUKI-SHI LIVE HERE?

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT IS STRICTLY OFF THE RECORD.

DID YOU HEAR THEM FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WERE WITH THE MISSING PERSONS?

I STAYED HERE FOR ONE WEEK TO MAKE PREPARATIONS, BUT I SAW NOTHING.

OHASHI-SAN, DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING YOURSELF?

I DID HEAR STORIES FROM OTHERS, THOUGH.

I'M AFRAID NOT, UNFORTUNATELY. BUT I'LL INQUIRE IF YOU LIKE.

IS THAT SO?

OH...DO YOU HAVE THE HOUSE BLUEPRINTS ON HAND?

AND, FINALLY...

...DO YOU KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE CAUSING THESE GHOSTS?

HMM...I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS, MYSELF.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SLAMM

CREAKKK

OH

HUH.

HEY

NARU-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG?

AGREED.

DOESN'T THIS FEEL LIKE THE PROVERBIAL "HAUNTED MANSION"?

AN OLD WESTERN-STYLE MANSION WITH LOTS OF HISTORY...

WE'LL GO THERE DISCREETLY.

WHOA, I'M NOT SURE I'M UP FOR THAT.

MAI.

YES?

A HAUNTED MANSION, ABANDONED FOR YEARS...A CONVOLUTED BUILDING WITH NO BLUEPRINTS...

WHAT'S THAT?

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

WE NEED TO STAY THERE OVERNIGHT.

SOMEONE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE THERE AFTER SUNSET.

MONK-SAN, WE'LL GO BEFORE THE SUN SETS.

FOR NOW, SET UP THERMAL SENSORS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

AND MATSUZAKI-SAN, PLEASE WRITE UP SOME CHARMS.

WE SHOULD GO A LITTLE BEFORE SUNSET, AND IN PAIRS. NO ONE PATROLS ALONE.

IF WE SPLIT UP, WE CAN COVER EACH ROOM.

IS THAT SAFE?

UH-HUH.

SCOWL

THOSE ARE THE WORDS OF A CARELESS MAN LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO BE LAZY.

AREN'T WE BEING A BIT OVER-CAUTIOUS?

にやり SMIRK

WE SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ON OUR TOES.

I SEE.

WHAT?

AUTHORITY LIKE THAT IS RESERVED ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT!

AND THAT WOULD BE OUR HONORABLE "GUEST."

RIGHT!

にや HAH!

NOW THAT'S GOING OVER-BOARD.

THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE A LOWLY "INVESTIGATOR."

BUT THIS CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE IS SUCH A SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART FOR YOU...

..."INVESTIGATOR NARUMI-KUN."

I WILL DEFER TO MY ELDERS.

UHP

PIERCE

LET'S COME TO AN AGREEMENT, THEN.

UOH OH OHO

NATURALLY, HE WOULDN'T COP SUCH AN ATTITUDE WITH US.

SLAPPP

BEAM

SO...

MATSUZAKI-SAMA? TAKIGAWA-SAMA?

CHARM POINT

WHOEVER WANTS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THIS OPERATION, PLEASE STEP FORWARD.

...MASAKO?

SIGH

DON'T THOSE GUYS KNOW THEIR LIMITS/?

WE'RE SORRY...

SHIVER

OH? FOR WHAT?

GRIN

GRIN

GRIN

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK PALE.
SOME-THING'S...
I'VE FELT AN ANXIETY EVER SINCE WE ENTERED THIS HOUSE.
THERE'S—
THE SCENT OF BLOOD IN HERE.
I SEE...
WHAT IS IT?
...UH

WHAT!?

FOR A MOMENT, AT THE ENTRANCE...

I THOUGHT I SMELLED BLOOD.

I THOUGHT I WAS JUST IMAGINING IT.

BUT...

HEY

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING SOONER!

AN OLD MANSION WITH RUMORS OF SPIRITS, AND TWO MISSING PEOPLE...

WHAT...

IS LURKING IN HERE?

BUT AYAKO ALSO SENSED THE SMELL OF BLOOD.

GHOST HUNT

— THE BLOODSTAINED LABYRINTH —

FILE 2

.....
WOW..
WOW–
...WOW

THE OWNER'S FATHER AND GRANDFATHER MUST'VE BEEN ARTISTS.

HEY, THAT'S IT!

MONK-SAN!

AH!

WATCH YOUR...

UH-OH!

HUH... WHA-!?

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE IN A PAINTING.

THIS IS SO SURREAL...

WHY PUT A DOOR HERE?

YOU'RE SO TENSE ON THE JOB.

AHAHA, HOW NAIVE.

CHEER UP, TAKIGAWA-SAN...

WHAT'S THIS BEAM DOING HERE?

UH

YOU OKAY!?

OW! MAN...

HE'S EVEN WEIRDER THAN NARU...

SHALL WE START IN THAT ROOM JUST AHEAD OF US?

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CHEERFUL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT'S STAND-IN.

CREAKKK

WHOA, IN HERE?

UH-HUH.

I FEEL LIKE A LOST CHILD...

THIS IS THE STRANGEST ROOM YET.

SLAMMM

THOSE PEOPLE VANISHED IN HERE TWO MONTHS AGO.

ROGER!

WITH A REAL DUNGEON?

MAI, TAKE NOTES ON THE EXACT LAYOUT OF THE ROOMS!

IT FEELS LIKE AN RPG.

WHAT A STRANGE HOUSE. THIS ROOM HAS RANDOM CORRIDORS THAT LEAD NOWHERE.

'CLICK'

SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON HERE

I DON'T THINK WE'LL DISCOVER A CORPSE JUST BY WANDERING AROUND

!

BLINK

IF THEY GOT LOST, DON'T YOU THINK THEY'D ALREADY BE DEAD?

THAT'S WHAT OHASHI-SAN SA

DIGITAL THERMAL SENSOR

BIDDP

WHAT IS IT!?

A CORPSE!?

HMM?

EEEEK

AAAA!?

UH

ANYTHING WE COULD FIND, THE POLICE ALREADY WOULD HAVE FOU—

CREAKKK

THIS MAKES NO SENSE

SQUEEEK

THESE SHUTTERS MUST'VE BEEN ADDED DURING RENOVATIONS.

THIS HOUSE IS JUST AS WEIRD AS WE'D THOUGHT.

WHY DOES THIS WINDOW OPEN INTO ANOTHER ROOM INSTEAD OF OUTSIDE?

UH, WHICH WAY DID WE COME IN?

OKAY.

MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE TO THE NEXT ROOM.

...IT JUST SANK ABOUT FOUR DEGREES.

THE ENTIRE ROOM...

WHAT HAPPENED?

BIIP BIIP!

OH!

OH YOU TWO.

WHICH WAY, GUYS?

THE WINCHESTER HOUSE?

WHAT'S THAT?

THERE WAS A LEGEND THAT CLAIMED THAT MISFORTUNE WOULD BEFALL THE OWNER ONCE SHE'D FINISHED BUILDING THE HOUSE. SO SHE JUST NEVER STOPPED RENOVATING IT.

IT'S THIS CONVOLUTED "MYSTERY HOUSE."

IT'S LIKE THE WINCHESTER HOUSE.

IS THAT THIS HOUSE'S STORY, TOO, THEN?
HEY, COME OVER HERE.
THE WINCHESTER HOUSE IS JUST A MYTH!

YEAH! LIKE A TREASURE CHEST, OR A LEVEL MINI-BOSS, OR...
IF THIS ROOM'S A DUNGEON, THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING INSIDE!
OH, YEAH, YEAH.

I DON'T GET WHY IT'S HERE.
EXCUSE ME.
A ROOM WITHIN A ROOM...
I DON'T GET IT...

THAT'S...
MINAMI-SAN, THE ONE WHO KNOWS SO MANY FAMOUS MEDIUMS.
HEY, AREN'T YOU...
THE SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH TEAM?

KRIKKK

THANK YOU...ARE YOU DOING THE SAME, MINAMI-SAN?

OH, YEAH. HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME.

HA HA HA-HA! はっはっはっ

YOUR PRESIDENT-SAN MAY BE YOUNG, BUT HE KNOWS A LOT.

THAT'S GOOD. IT'S KEY TO PSYCHIC INVESTIGATIONS. THE TEMPERATURE DROPS IN PLACES WHERE GHOSTLY PHENOMENA OCCURRED.

OH

A DIGITAL THERMAL SENSOR...ARE YOU MEASURING THE TEMPERATURE?

HEY!

DON'T DROP AN ALCOHOL THERMOMETER!

SWISH SWISH

YES! I'M USING THE METHODS DR. DAVIS PASSED DOWN TO ME.

OH, THANK YOU...

DING

HUMANS WERE BORN TO LEARN.

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TRADE SECRETS, SO FEEL FREE TO USE ANY OF MY TECHNIQUES IF YOU LIKE.

I SENSE SOMETHING BEYOND THIS ROOM.

MR. PRESIDENT...

IS THIS GUY...

...REALLY A RESEARCHER...?

THE SPOILS GO TO THE EXORCISING TEAM THAT WINS.

WELL, LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST.

THEY'RE DONE WITH THIS ROOM ALREADY!?

HUH?

AH, I SEE.

DID THEY EVEN MEASURE ANY-THING!?

FWIP

HA HA HA HA HA!

SLAMMM

IS THAT SO?

WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING BY THE BOOK.

—THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

AREN'T YOU SUCH A FANBOY OF HIS? WHY HIM, WHEN YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY SO MANY OTHER AMAZING PEOPLE...?

HUH

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M A FREAK!

AW, MONK-SAN...

THAT'S TOO BAD, THE DOCTOR'S NOT HERE...

KOFF

WELL, HE'S AN AMAZINGLY DILIGENT MAN.

HE WRITES HIS THESES LIKE THEY WERE REGULAR SCIENTIFIC THESES.

IT'S JUST SO RARE TO MEET SUCH A METICULOUS RESEARCHER!

BUT—

THAT'S NOT IT!

HEH, WHATEVER YOU SAY.

HOHOHO

WHY ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?

YEAH!

"THEREFORE, I THINK WE MUST FIRST CONDUCT OUR RESEARCH IN SUCH A WAY THAT SUPERNATURAL RESEARCH WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS A SCIENCE."

"IT'S A SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY WHETHER THE STUDY OF THE SUPERNATURAL IS LEGITIMATE SCIENCE OR A FRAUD.

"THE AUTHOR BELIEVES THAT IT'S NOT A SCIENCE—YET.

HUH

WHEN IS A THESIS NOT A THESIS?

THERE'S THIS BOOK, SUPERNATURAL SYSTEMS, THE DOCTOR WROTE.

THE PREFACE TO IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

SINCE THE DOCTOR HIMSELF IS A PSYCHIC, WELL, THAT'S HOW HE KNOWS THAT PSYCHIC PHENOMENA EXISTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OPPOSITION CALLS THEIR WORK FRAUDULENT.

THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA INSIST THAT, INTELLECTUALLY, IT IS A "SCIENCE."

WE MUST CONDUCT OUR RESEARCH IN A SCIENTIFIC MANNER.

IN OTHER WORDS, SINCE THE STUDY OF THE SUPERNATURAL IS NOT YET CONSIDERED A SCIENCE...

...OH.

NOW I GET IT.

DOCTOR'S INITIATE

YEAH, BUT UNLIKE HIM, THE DOCTOR HAS A DECENT PERSONALITY.

KAHAHAHAH!

SO HE CONDUCTS RESEARCH PROPERLY, LIKE MINAMI-SAN?

THAT'S GOOD.

NOW I UNDER-STAND

ACTUALLY, THAT BOOK IS A THOROUGHLY ACCURATE RESEARCH TOME.

I HAVE A FEELING WE CAN'T TRUST HIM.

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE MINAMI IS A LITTLE BIT SKETCHY?

SURELY
'S DEALT
WITH
YOUNG
PEOPLE
BEFORE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD, TOO, FOR THE DOCTOR TO BE SO QUIET...
THAT'S RIGHT...
OH, SPEAKING OF WHICH...
JOHN, WHY DIDN'T THE DOCTOR SAY ANYTHING BACK THEN?
HE'S NOT YOUNG ENOUGH.
YES... BUT...
THE DOCTOR EARNED HIS DEGREE AT THE LONDENBERG FOUNDATION.
EVEN AMONG WESTERN FOUNDATIONS DEVOTED TO PSYCHIC RESEARCH, IT'S BEEN NOTABLE FOR ITS AGGRESSIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.
IT CREATED A SPECIAL DEGREE FOR ITS MOST ACCOMPLISHED RESEARCHER.
THE WINNING RESEARCHER WAS ALSO AWARDED A UNIVERSITY LECTURE POSITION.
HMM
WHICH IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM AN ORDINARY DOCTORATE.
DR. DAVIS EARNED THAT DOCTORATE...
?
?
?

HOW CAN WE COMPETE? WE'RE JUST AMATEURS!

WHOA...

HE'S AN AMAZING MAN.

THAT'S RIGHT. PLUS HE'S A FAMOUS PSYCHIC IN HIS OWN RIGHT.

IS THAT WHY THERE WAS SUCH A FUSS OVER THE DOCTOR'S APPEARANCE TODAY?

IT WAS DONE IN A REAL LAB, SO A VIDEO PROBABLY EXISTS.

JUST ONE TIME, SOME YEARS AGO, HE DID DO A PK PUBLIC EXPERIMENT.

BECAUSE HE'S A SPIRIT RESEARCHER, HE DOESN'T EXERCISE HIS OWN SUPERNATURAL POWERS MUCH, BUT...

HE IS AMAZ ING.

...YOU ALL SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELVES.

THEY FOUND HIM UNDER-GROUND, BURIED ALIVE!

THEN HE REALLY GAINED NOTORIETY WHEN HE FOUND AN AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE'S KIDNAPPED SON.

WHAT ARE YOU, THE DOCTOR'S FAN CLUB?

WOW

WOW

WOW

WANT ANOTHER STORY?

I HAVEN'T SEEN IT MYSELF, BUT...

HE SMASHED A HUGE ALUMINIUM MASS AGAINST A WALL.

BONK

ALUMINUM FOIL

WALL

HEAV

ALUMI-NUM?

I CAME HERE TO WORK.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THERE AREN'T MANY CAMERAS LEFT!

WHOA.

I WENT TO SET UP THE CAMERAS, OF COURSE.

YO, NARU-CHAN, WHERE DID YOU GO?

AH

SORRY! I'LL GET SET UP RIGHT NOW!

SO...

SHIVER!

DID YOU SET THEM UP NEARBY?

WHOA, DID IT GET COLD IN HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

FOR NOW, I'VE PLACED THEM IN THE CENTER OF WHERE EVERYONE WILL BE SLEEPING.

FROM THERE WE'LL MAINTAIN A SAFETY ZONE AND GRADUALLY INCREASE THE RADIUS.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, TANIYAMA-SAN...

THE WORK'S TOO HEAVY FOR A WOMAN.

AHH...

BUT YOUR PARENTS WILL BE WORRIED.

GO AHEAD.

BUT, I'M AN ORPHAN.

OOF!

NO WORRIES. I'LL BE FINE.

MAI, YOU SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FAMILY TO LET THEM KNOW YOU'LL BE HERE AWHILE.

BUT...

IT'S FAR FROM HERE, BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.

THAT'S RIGHT.

NONCHALANT

YOU'RE AN...

ORPHAN...?

?

WHAT'S WRONG?

AND MY MOM DIED WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH.

MY FATHER DIED WHEN I WAS REALLY SMALL...

WELL.

WHAT ABOUT GRANDMOTHERS OR GRAND-FATHERS OR..

I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE LIVING RELATIVE.

NOBODY.

AND THEN WHAT?

...AND THEN WHAT?

WELL, I AGREED AND EVERYTHING.

SOME OF MY TEACHERS HELPED ME OUT BY LETTING ME STAY AT THEIR HOUSES!

ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PAY'S SO GOOD!

AND MY LIVING EXPENSES ARE COVERED BY SCHOLARSHIPS AND THIS PART-TIME JOB.

THANKS TO MY SCHOOL'S GENEROSITY TO THE NEEDY, MY SCHOOL FEES WERE WAIVED.

I DO! IT'S GREAT!

WHO SUPPORTS YOU NOW?

COME CRY ON MY...

SQUEEZE

I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU...

YOU CAN BE MY WIFE.

YOU ALWAYS TELL ME LIFE'S SO EXHAUSTING.

NO WAY! LET GO OF ME!

THIS IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT, YOU PERV!

BONK

NOT THIS GIRL!

NO.

OH WELL, YOU'RE NOT THAT CUTE.

I DON'T LIKE THEIR NEEDLING SOME-TIMES...

BUT I THINK IF I KEEP WORKING, I'LL BE FINE.

.....

WAIT, DID YOU SAY YOU'D RATHER WORK?

HMM

PHEW

IT'S THE SAME FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU SAY, "I'M HOME!"

I LIKE MOMENTS LIKE THESE...

WHEN WE CAN BE FRIENDLY AND RELAXED.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE DOCILE...

URK

YOU GUYS ARE SUCH IDIOTS!

THAT'S ENOUGH NOW...

HMM..

THEN, YOU WORK, EVEN ON DAYS YOU WANT TO SKIP SCHOOL...

BUT NOT ONLY DOES THIS JOB PAY THE BILLS, IT FEELS LIKE I'M ON VACATION/

EHEH...

MY SCHOOL HAS ALWAYS ALLOWED ME TO TAKE TIME OFF FOR WORK...

IS THAT WHY YOU CAN DEVOTE SO MUCH TO THIS JOB?

OH REALLY, NOW?

THAT WAS MEAN/ YOU'RE JUST LIKE NARU/

HYA/ HYA/ HYA/

HMM.

YOU'RE GONNA GROW UP STUPID.

I'VE FIGURED YOU OUT...

YOU'RE ONLY DOING THIS SO YOU CAN SKIP SCHOOL.

YEP, YEP.

I TAKE BREAKS ONLY WHEN I REALLY NEED TO...

HUH?

WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS/?

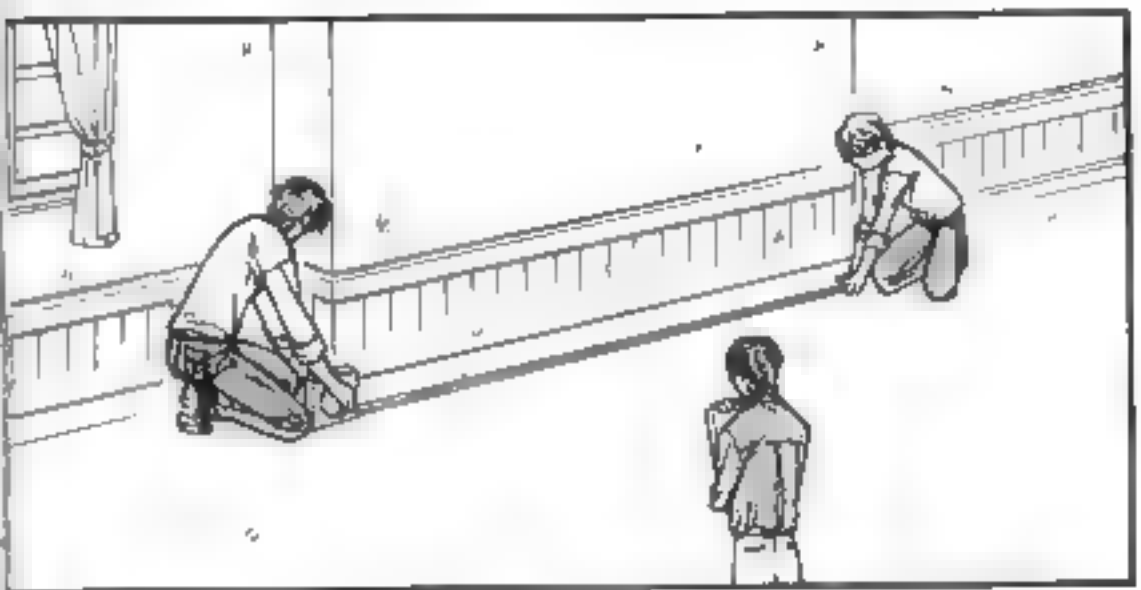
YOU

ANYWAY...

WHEN THAT'S DONE, MONK-SAN, JOHN, AND YASUHARA-SAN, WOULD YOU THREE MEASURE THE DIMENSIONS OF ALL ROOMS AND CORRIDORS?

THEN SET UP CONDENSER MIKES IN THE SAME PLACES.

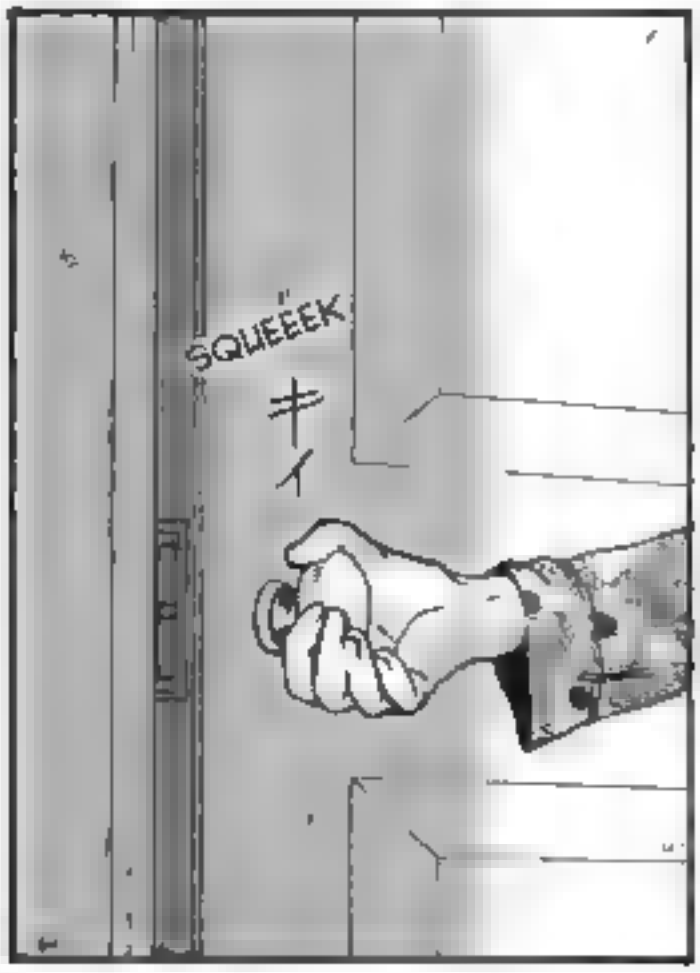
SET UP THE NIGHT-VISION CAMERAS AND THERMO-GRAPHS AT FIVE LOCATIONS,

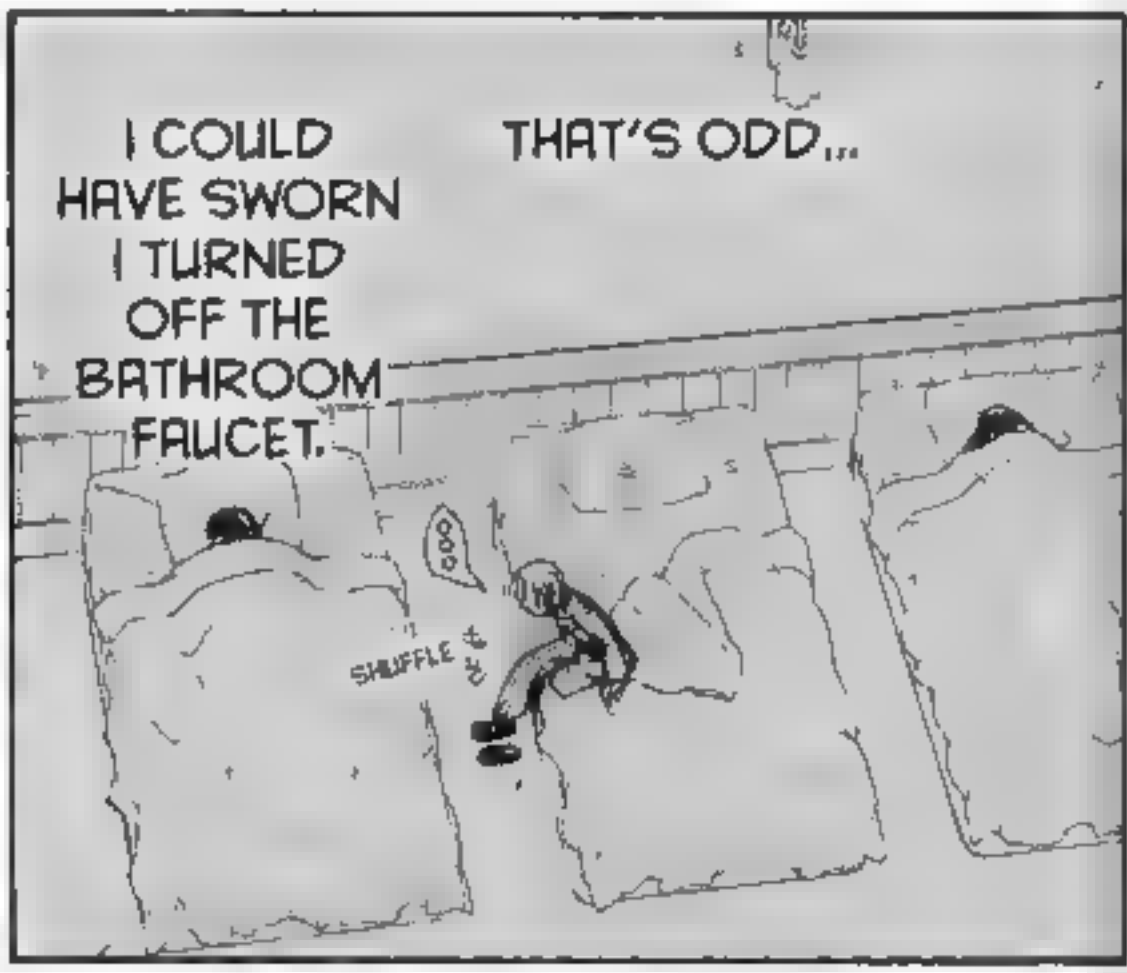


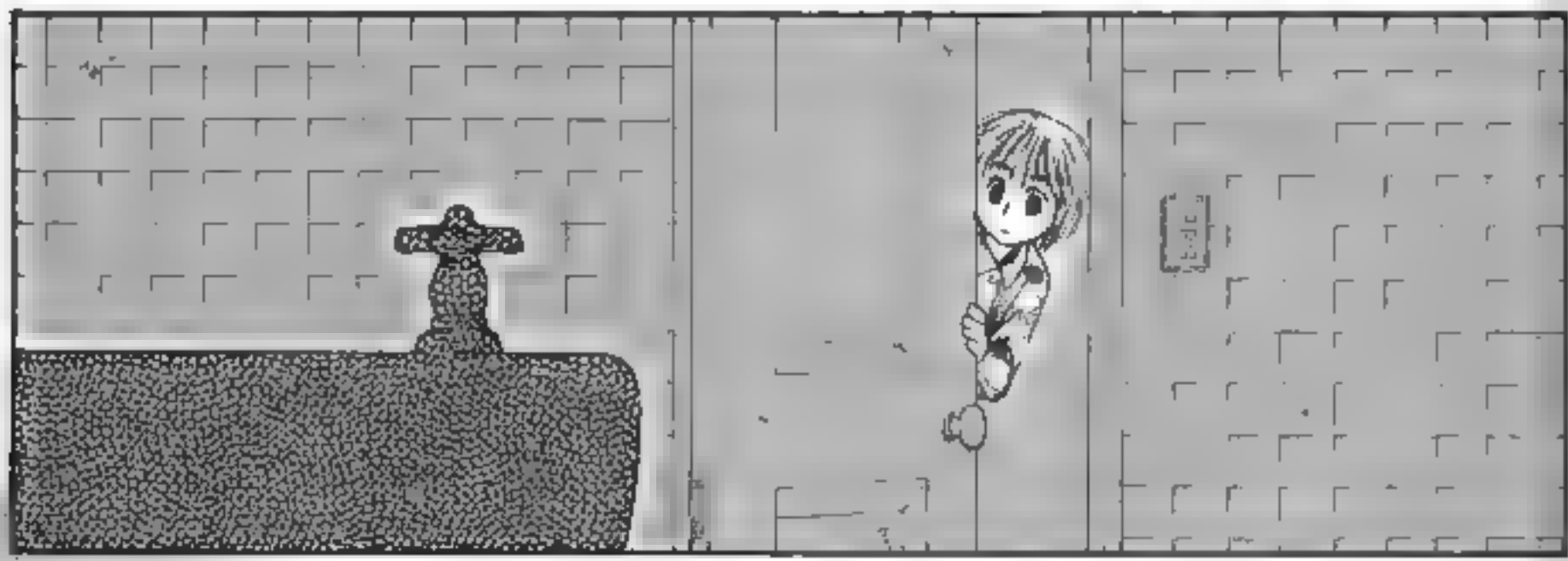
DRIPP

DROPPP
DRIPP

WHAT'S THAT?
WATER...?
DRIPP
DRIPP


SQUEEEK

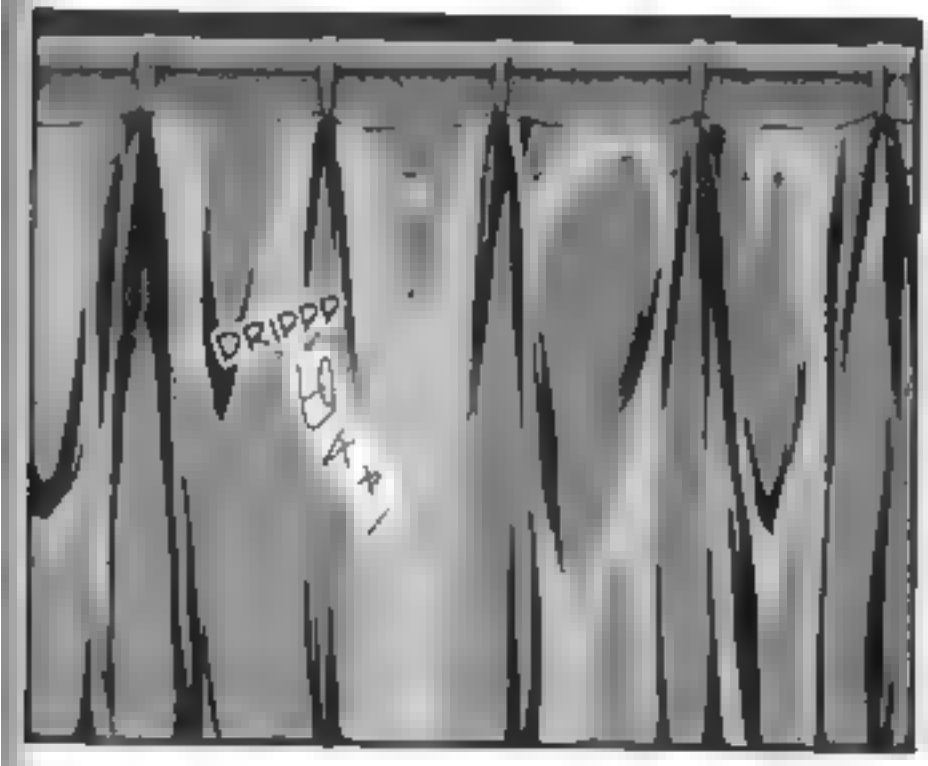

I COULD HAVE SWORN I TURNED OFF THE BATHROOM FAUCET.
THAT'S ODD...
SHUFFLE



DRIPPP

HMM, IT'S TURNED OFF, JUST AS I THOUGHT.
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON.

DRIPPP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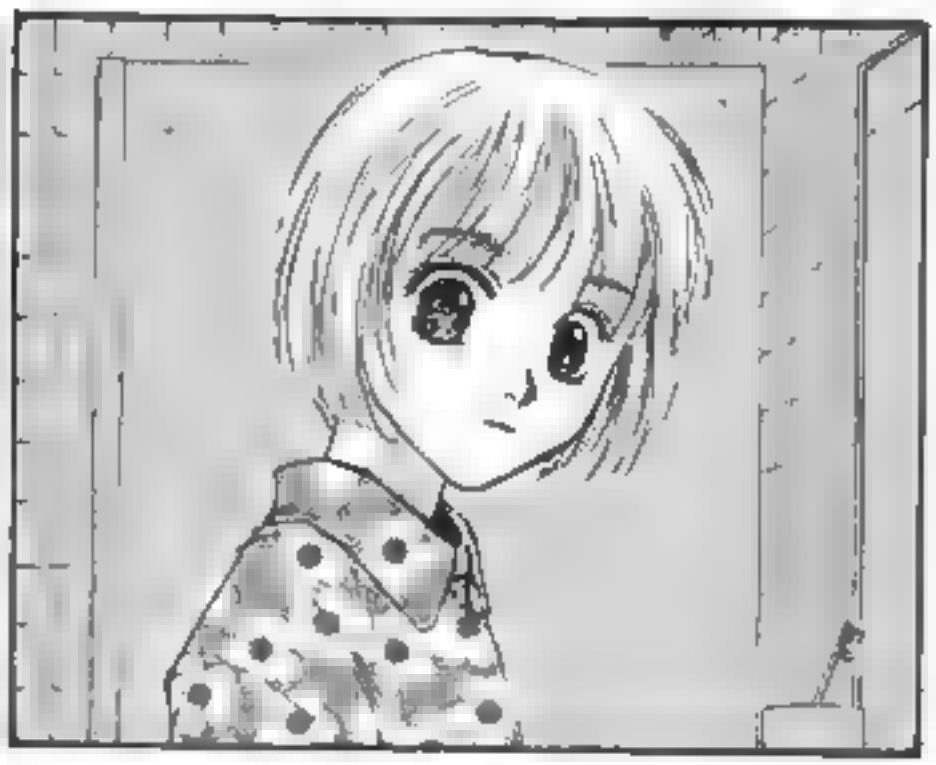

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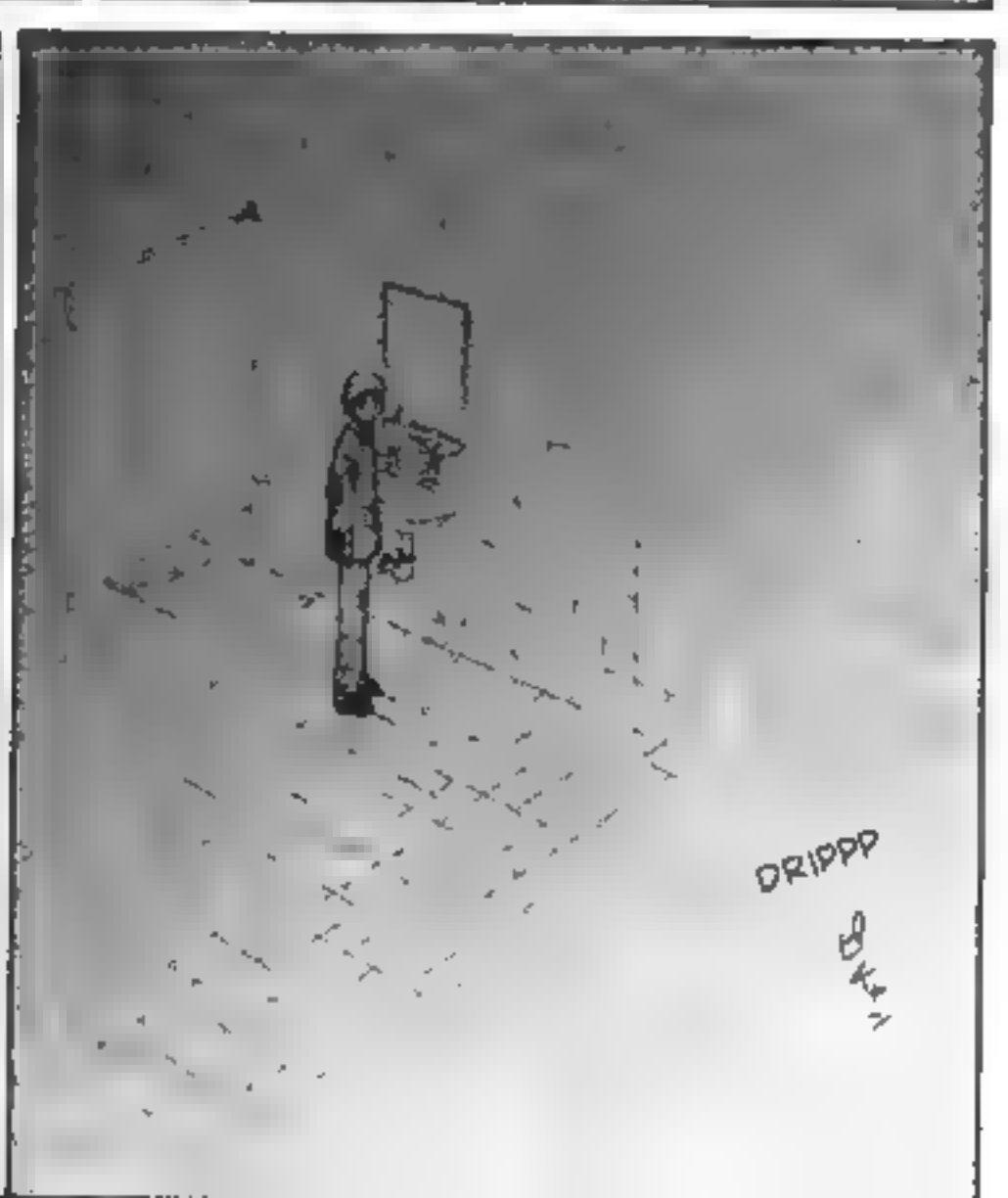

DRIPPP

DRIPPP
WHAT'S THAT METALLIC ODOR...?
DRIPPP
WHISSH!
RUSTLE
DROP

KYAAA!
BAMMM!
MAI?
...?
.....
HEY, WHAT IS IT?
YOUR EYES! SNAP OUT OF IT!
OH, YOU SCARED ME.
JUST WOKE UP

...I JUST HAD THE MOST HORRIBLE DREAM...

BA-DUM

I...

UM...

IT'S NOT MORNING YET!

GOOD MORNING...

WHY DO I FEEL SO SPOOKED...

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

OH?

THE MEASUREMENTS ARE OFF SOMEWHERE.

...HUH?

URK

NOT AGAIN...

STRANGE... ACCORDING TO THE MEASUREMENTS TAKEN FROM THE OUTSIDE, THIS ROOM SHOULD BE RECTANGULAR.

THAT IS ODD...

SLRMMM

WE'VE ALREADY MEASURED THIS SEVERAL TIMES, RIGHT?

HMM...

WE EVEN DOUBLE-CHECKED THE MEASURE-MENTS...

AND WE WERE MORE CAREFUL AFTER THE FIRST TIME...

JOHN, YOU MEASURED IT, RIGHT? LET'S GO.

DAMN, THIS SHOULD'VE BEEN SIMPLE. LET'S DO IT AGAIN.

OKAY.

HUH?
WE GOT THE SAME MEASURE-MENTS FOR THE OUTSIDE.
OH!
CREEAKKK
TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK
TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK
YAWNNNN!
OH! LET'S GO.
HAHA
IN FACT WE DID IT TWICE.
BUT WE MEASURED THE OUTSIDE AGAIN.
RIGHT.
SOMETHING MUST BE OFF.
OUR MEASUREMENTS HAVE TO MATCH THE ROOM'S ACTUAL SIZE.
I WONDER IF THERE COULD BE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY?
THAT CAN'T BE. WE DEFINITELY CHECKED FOR ERRORS.
HUH? THEN WHY IS THE WIDTH STILL OFF BY THREE METERS/?

THAT'S IT.

I SAY WE TEAR DOWN THE WALL! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE.

ACK!

K!!!!!

ARRGGGGH!

OF COURSE!

URGH!

WAIT!

WE'LL PROBABLY FIGURE OUT WHERE THE DIFFERENCE IS.

ARRRGH

WHY DON'T WE TAKE A BREAK HERE AND CONTINUE LATER?

THAT'S RIGHT.

LIKE A SECRET ROOM?

BUT...

BUT WHAT?

HMM...

I'VE HAD IT.

WHAT IS?

THAT'S FUNNY...

WELL, THIS MUST BE THE CENTER OF THE HOUSE.

WHY IS IT WHEN WE MEASURE, WE MEASURE A GAP?

COLLAPSE

HEY

IN THE LAST ROOM, THERE WAS A WINDOW THAT OPENED INTO A WALL.

THE PREVIOUS ROOM

HUH?

THIS PLACE IS FULL OF WHO KNOWS HOW MANY STRANGE ROOMS.

THERE'S AN AIR FLOW, ISN'T THERE?

BUT THE FORMER OWNER DIDN'T EVER ACTUALLY LIVE HERE.

HUH?

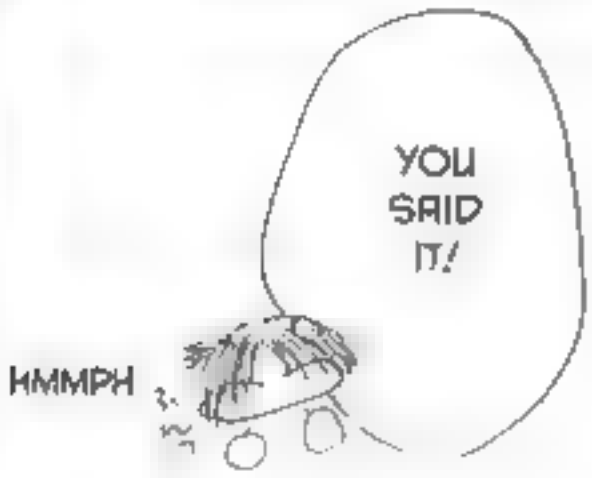
LOOK OVER THERE.

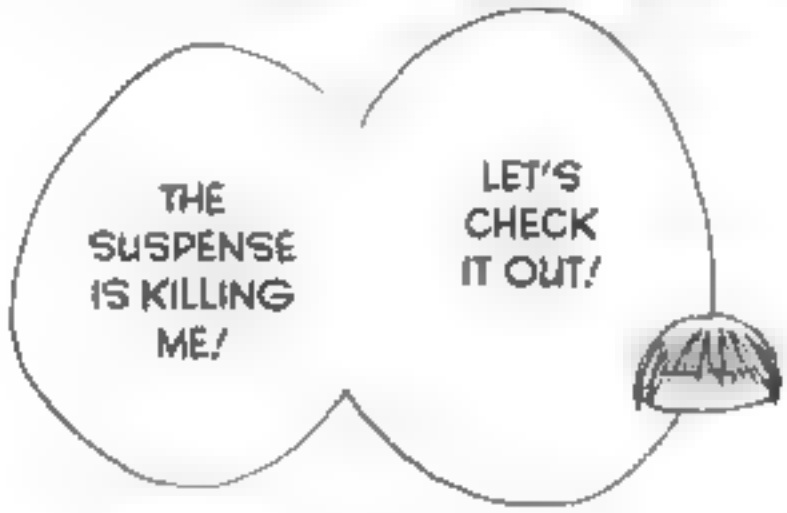
HUH

I'D SAY SO...

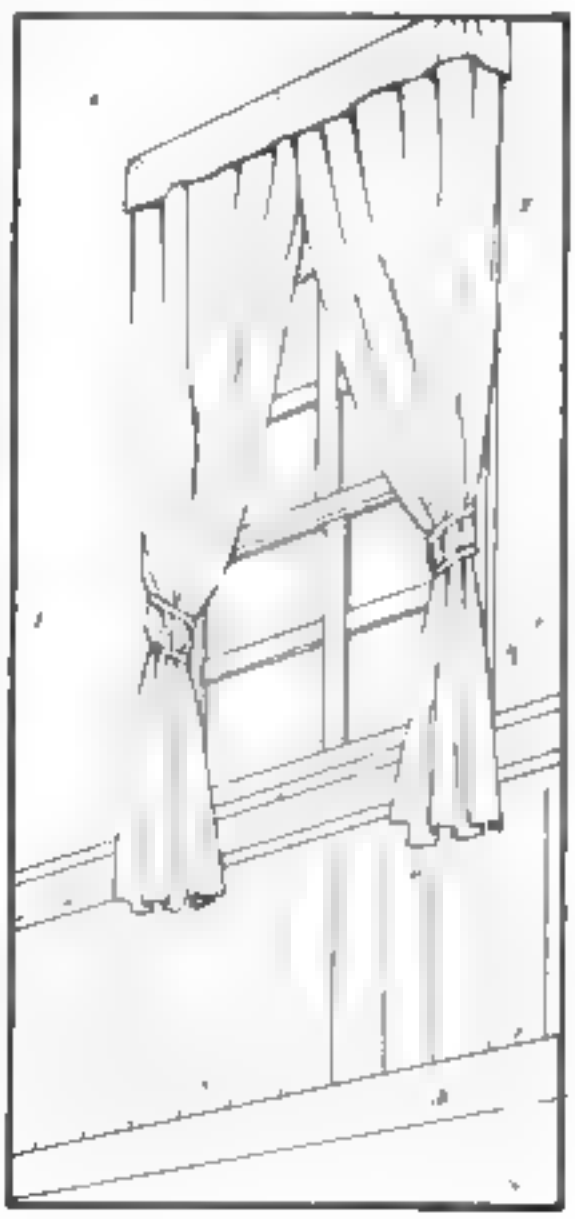
THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF "FEATURES" THAT SERVE NO PURPOSE FOR SOMEONE LIVING HERE.

THIS ROOM HAS A WINDOW, TOO.


YOU SAID IT!
HMMPH


THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME!
LET'S CHECK IT OUT!

WOW, IT'S BRIGHT!
SQUINT
SQUEEEEK
HMMM.
YOU'RE SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH, RIGHT?



WAS THERE A REASON FOR BRINGING CHILDREN HERE?

OH!

WHISPER WHISPER

I THINK HE'S THAT MONK, "I-SOME-THING-OR-OTHER."

WHO'S THAT GUY?

PSST! PSST!

CHILDREN CAN BE MEDIUMS AS WELL AS ADULTS.

I'M AN ADULT!

GOOD AFTERNOON.

OH, HE'S PUTTING ON HIS "BUSINESS" FACE.

MY FAMILY HAS LIVED LONG LIVES FOR GENERATIONS.

BUT WE DON'T BRAG ABOUT IT.

AH HA HA AH HA HA

I TURNED 243 THIS YEAR.

ME?

YOU STILL LOOK LIKE A SCHOOLKID.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME A MEDIUM?

WHOOSH
BLINK
IF I ASKED AN ELDERLY PERSON THOSE QUESTIONS WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WOULD HAVE BEEN SLAPPED SENSELESS.
YOU YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY ARE SO FEARLESS.
EH-
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT!
WHEN WERE YOU REALLY BORN? TELL ME!
UM
SUAVE
IN THE YEAR HOUREKI 8...
INCIDENTALLY, IT WAS A TSUCHINOE TORA YEAR.
BUT THEN, MY PARENTS WERE BORN DURING THE KENMU RESTORATION, AND THEY WERE ALWAYS GIVING ME AN EARFUL ABOUT THE ONIN WAR.
THEY ONLY THINK THEY KNOW FROM FAMILY STORIES. SUCH ARROGANCE...
IT WAS DEVASTATING... PEOPLE TODAY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT A FAMINE IS.
SPEAKING OF WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I STILL REMEMBER THE TENMEI FAMINE
べらべら
YACK
YACK
YACK
YACK
YACK
YACK
YACK
YACK
I HEARD MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE BURNED TO DEATH DURING THE DOWNFALL OF THE YAMATAIKOKU.
OH, POOR HIMIKO WAS A BEAUTY, I'M TOLD.
FOR MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER ON MY FATHER'S SIDE, THE JINSHIN WAR WAS HUGE.
AND EVEN THAT MUST HAVE BEEN NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GENPEI WAR THAT MY GRANDFATHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE WENT THROUGH.
HEH-HEH
HEEHEE

WHOOSH!

IMURA-SAAAAAN?

HEY

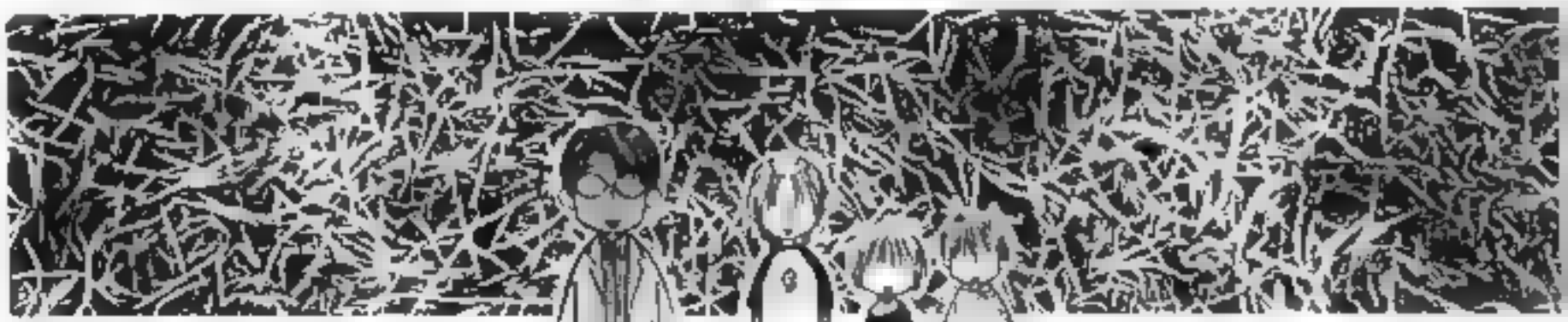
OH? IMURA-SAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

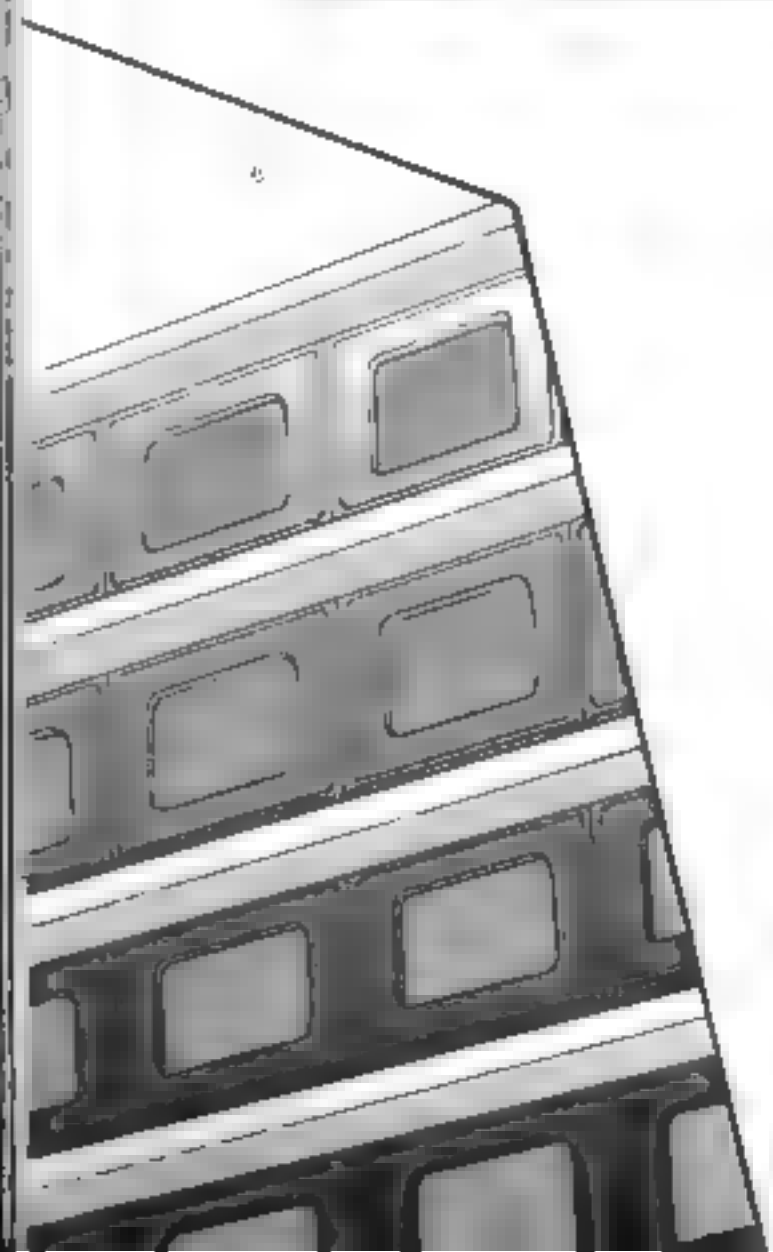
SWISSSH

SCURRY SCURRY

ドスドス

AND THEN THERE'S MY GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRAND-FATHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE...





BIPPP
14
ONE HUN—!
THAT MANY!?
WHAT'S THIS LINE?
THAT'S THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THE BUILDING.
LIN, HOW MANY ROOMS ARE THERE?
THIS IS A SKETCH OF THE AREA WE INVESTIGATED ON OUR SECOND DAY.
INCLUDING THE ATTIC, 106.

IN ADDITION, THERE'S TOO MUCH EMPTY SPACE BETWEEN ROOMS.

COULD THE MEASURING TAPE BE INACCURATE?

SO/ DON'T BLAME US FOR THE MEASUREMENTS!

IT DOESN'T MATCH AT ALL, DOES IT?

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT SAYS. WE MEASURED IT PROPERLY!

YEAH, MAYBE.

SO MAYBE THERE ARE SECRET ROOMS?

BUT WE ACTUALLY DOUBLE-CHECKED THE RESULTS SEVERAL TIMES.

THIS WASN'T SAID OUT LOUD, BUT...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO MEASURE IT YOURSELF.

THIS IS A TROUBLING POSSIBILITY...

YOU ALREADY HAVE A MEASURING TAPE.

LET'S VERIFY THE MEASUREMENTS AGAIN TOMORROW...

HUH! ALL THE ROOMS!? ONLY IF YOU GIVE US LASER RANGE FINDERS!

IT'S UP TO US, ISN'T IT?

SHEESH, HAVE A LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE ELDERLY.

SIGH

ARE YOU SHIBUYA-SAN?

EXCUSE ME...

OH, MY BACK HURTS...

IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, WE MIGHT SLIP UP

UM, I-

IGARASHI-SENSEI.

PLEASE DO.

I'M SORRY... YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF DINNER.

IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I INTERRUPT?

SKREECH

UH, YES!

OH, THIS MIGHT GET COMPLICATED.

AND I'M HOPING YOU AND THE OTHERS WOULD ASSIST ME, IF YOU CAN, SHIBUYA-SAN.

AH

OKAY, I SEE...

UH-

WELL... ACTUALLY...

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, AND YOU DON'T APPEAR TO BE SHADY LIKE CERTAIN OTHER MEDIUMS.

I'D LIKE TO CONDUCT A SÉANCE TONIGHT...

HOLDING BACK THE GRINS

AW, WHAT A NICE KID!

IGARASHI-SENSEI WAS INQUIRING ABOUT HOLDING A SÉANCE TONIGHT.

I'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NARUMI-KUN...

YES?

HOWEVER, WE CAN ONLY ARRANGE A SMALL SÉANCE TONIGHT.

I SEE. I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, TOO.

YA-SUHARA SAN S QUITE AN ACTOR!

BUT I GOT NER-VOUS FOR A MOMENT THERE...

YES, THAT WOULD BE FINE.

THEN WOULD 9 O'CLOCK IN THE NEXT ROOM BE OKAY?

DROPPP
DROPPP
DR.PPP
DR PPP
DRIPPP
...I DON'T WANT TO DIE.

...I
DON'T
WANT
TO
DIE.

GHOST HUNT

— THE BLOODSTAINED LABYRINTH —

FILE 3

PLEASE, COME IN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE, SHIBUYA-SAN.

PARDON US.

S-SHUT UP!

ISN'T THIS GREAT?

HEE HEE HEE

AND STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT!

NOT FOR MINAMI-SAN.

OF COURSE.

WILL THIS BE ALL RIGHT?

ACTUALLY, DR. DAVIS AND MINAMI-SAN WILL ALSO BE PARTICIPATING.

THANK YOU.

HUH? IS THAT RIGHT? WHAT A NUISANCE...
DURING A SÉANCE, THERE IS ONLY ONE CANDLE. SPIRITS DISLIKE BRIGHTNESS, DO THEY NOT?
"BRIGHTER"?

MAY WE MAKE IT A LITTLE BRIGHTER?
IT'S A BIT DARK.

MR. PRESIDENT, COULD YOU POSSIBLY BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA?
THAT WOULD HELP US GREATLY.

UH, NO... TONIGHT, I THOUGHT THAT...
I INVITED YOU BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU WOULD RECORD THIS ON VIDEO.
DO YOU NOT HAVE A NIGHT-VISION CAMERA?
YEAH!
I THOUGHT HE WAS SUSPICIOUS.

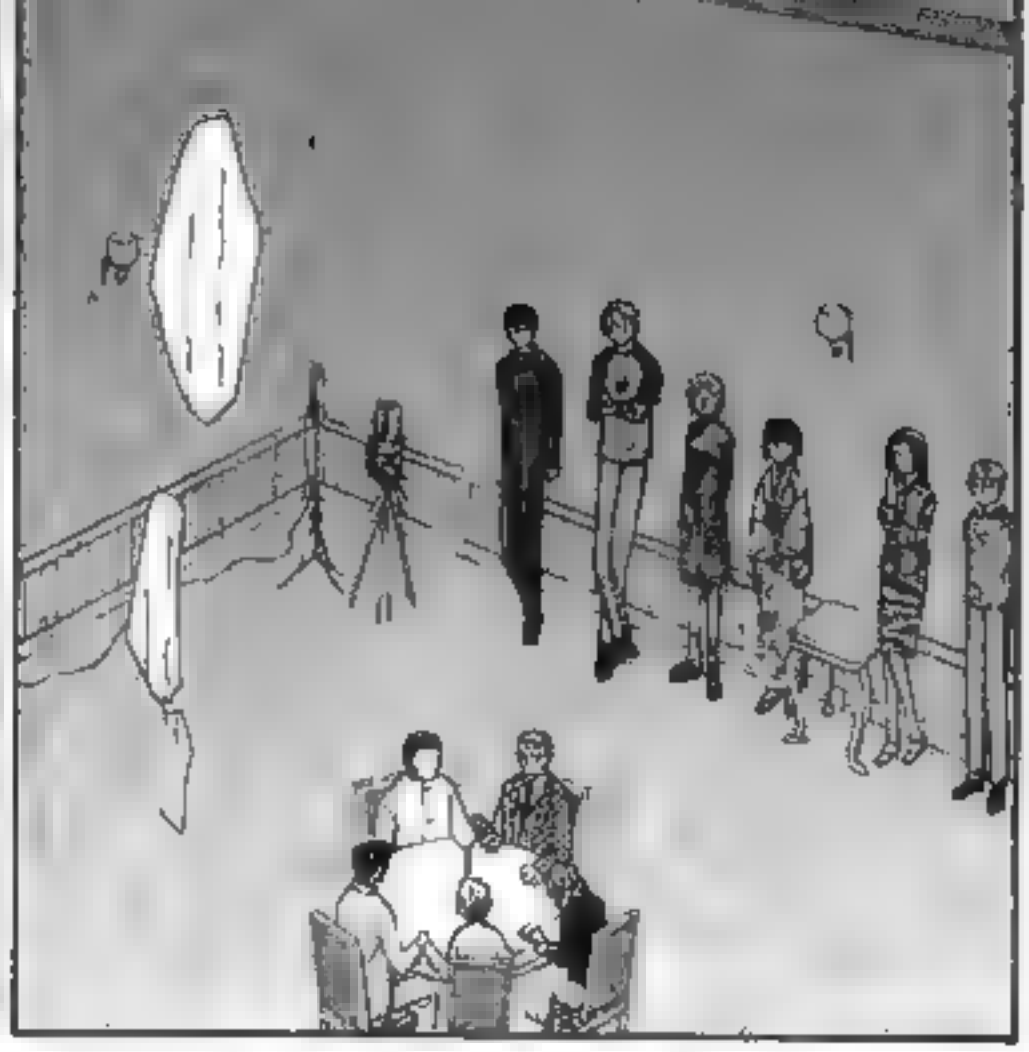
TO THOSE LIVING IN THIS MANSION...
PLEASE POSSESS THIS WOMAN'S HAND AND REVEAL YOUR SOULS.
I IMPLORE YOU TO REVEAL YOURSELF.
WHRRR
PLEASE TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND CALL UPON THE SPIRITS
THE SPIRITS LIVING IN THIS MANSION...

PLEASE LET US HEAR WHAT IS IN YOUR SOULS.

IF YOU HEAR MY VOICE, PLEASE REVEAL YOURSELF.

WHAT IS...

ARE SPIRITS ACTUALLY GOING TO COME...
FEEL LIKE YAWN-ING...



MASAKO ?
TWITCH

BLINK

SQUEEEK

SQUEEK
SQUEEKKKK
SQUEEKKKK
SQUEEKKKK
SQUEEKKKK
SQUEEKKKK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEKKKK

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
CLATTER
CLATTR
CLATTR
CLATTR
CLATTR
BAMMM
BAM
WHAT'S THAT SCARY RAPPING SOUND...
BAM
JITTTER
BAM
BAM

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
KEEP QUIET...
PLEASE DON'T MOVE!
OOWAAAA!
WHOOSH
GASP
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
NO ONE'S "THERE."
WHO'S THERE!?
MY BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL...
ナウマク

サンマンダ
バザラダン
カン！

BAM

FLCK!

DEFINITELY INVOKED SPIRITS...

WE...

RUSTLE

PLEH

THIS SAYS THE SAME THING, TOO.

HELP

SAME HERE.

"HELP" ...?

WHISSH

WHAT...?

...HEY

I DON'T WANT TO DIE

WAS ONLY THIS PAPER WRITTEN IN RED...?

WHY...

WELL...IT SEEMED TO DRAG MY ARM AROUND.

WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE?

IT FELT AS IF ONLY MAGIC COULD MOVE IT.

ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE RAPPING SOUNDS BEGAN, THE TEMPERATURE STARTED DROPPING.

BEGINNING NEAR THE CEILING, IT GRADUALLY, AND EVENTUALLY DROPPED THREE DEGREES ACROSS THE ENTIRE ROOM.

TP

TP

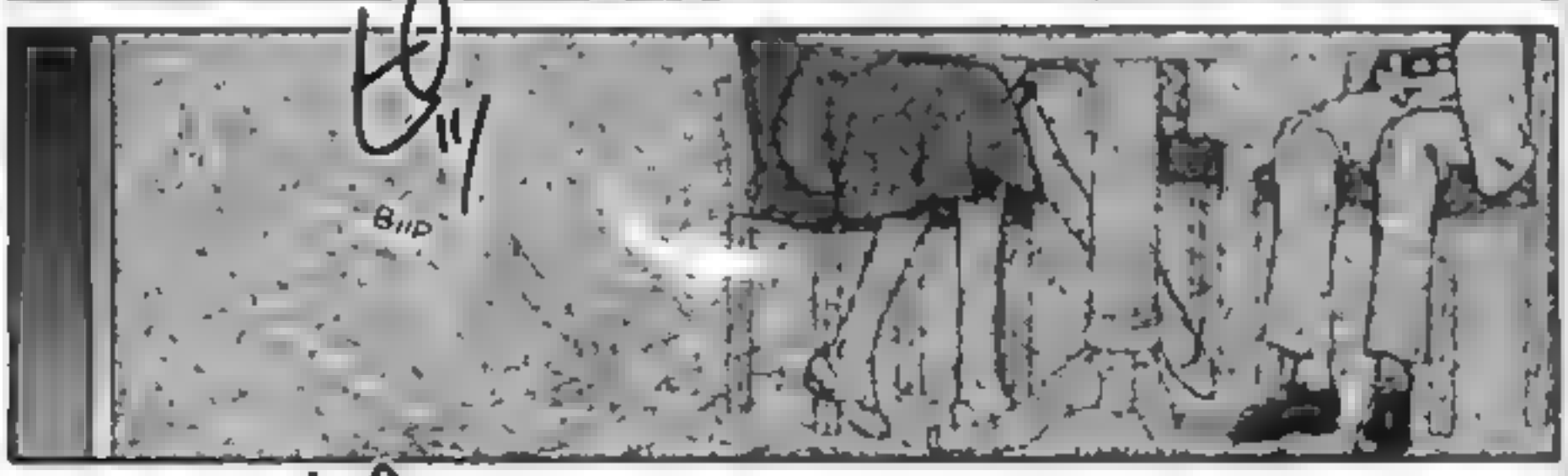
GO BACK 53 SECONDS AND THEN GO FRAME BY FRAME.

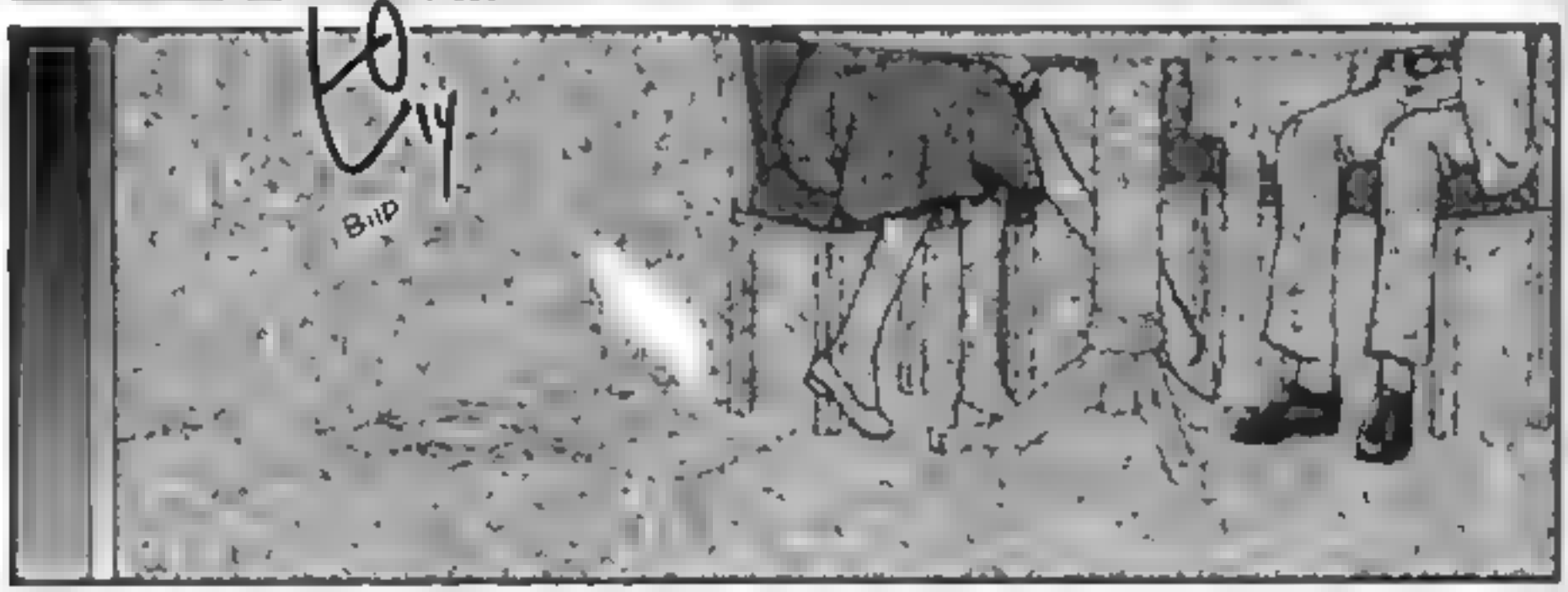
STOP!

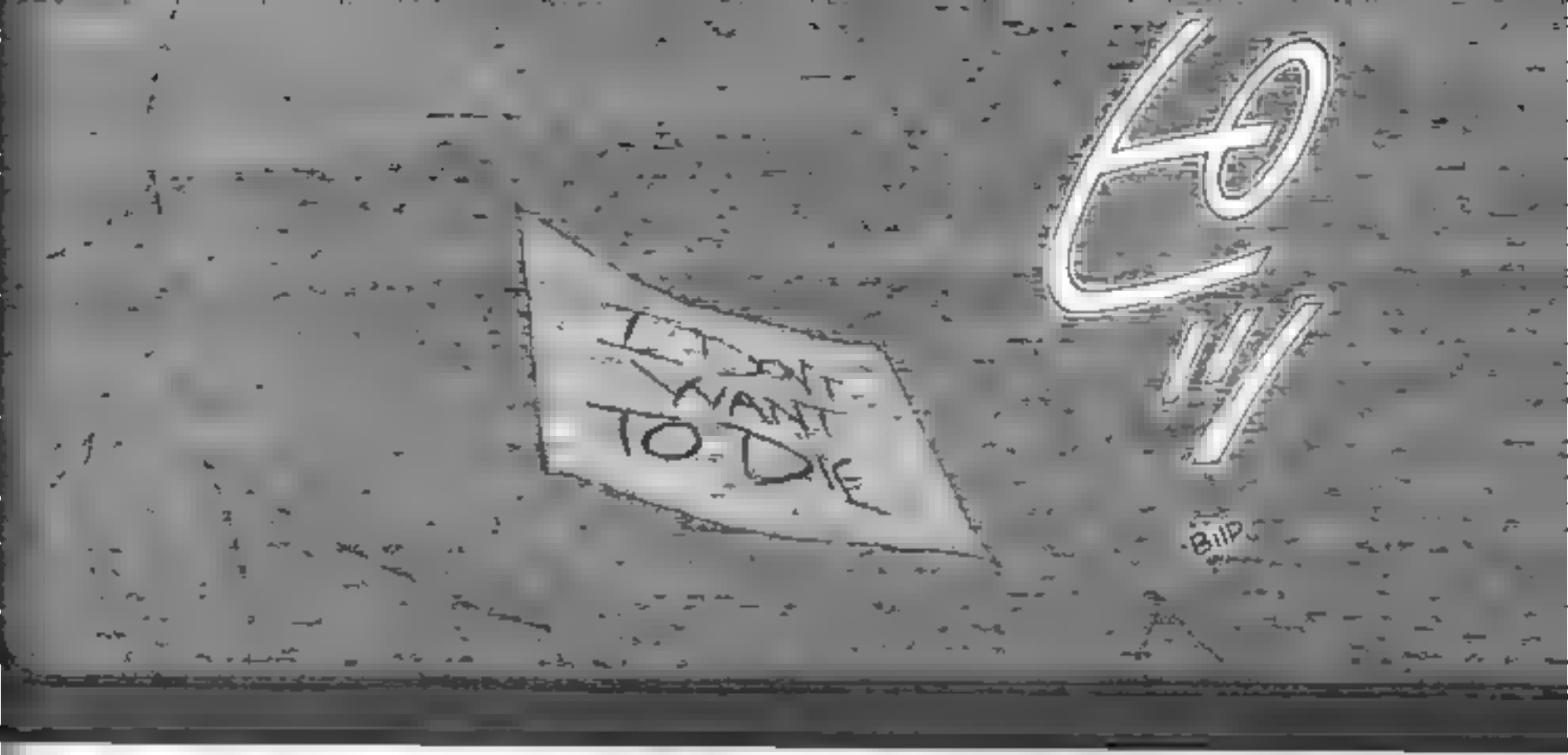
HEHEHE

THAT WOULD'VE BEEN ME.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE FELL DOWN.






I'M NOT WANT TO DIE
BIIP

MASAKO!?

...THERE WAS NOTHING WRITTEN THERE JUST ONE FRAME BEFORE.
MMOR

MATSUZAKI-SAN
PLEASE GO WITH THEM.
OKAY

I'LL TAKE YOU.
I'M SORRY... MAY I GO BACK TO MY ROOM?
I'M FEELING NAUSEOUS.

WE SET UP NIGHT-VISION CAMERAS AND CONDENSER MIKES IN THE SÉANCE ROOM.

MAY WE FINISH YESTERDAY'S INVESTIGATION, MR. PRESIDENT?

UH.

OKAY.

I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF.

NO WAY.

HE'S GETTING UNCHARACTERISTICALLY NERVOUS.

NARU—

THE SCENT OF BLOOD?

I FELT LIKE VOMITING IN THE SÉANCE ROOM AND AFTERWARD.

IS EVERYONE ELSE ALL RIGHT? I CAN SENSE THAT SMELL INFUSED THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE BODY.

YES...

IT WAS AFTER.

NO...

HMM?

SNIFF

SNIFF

I SEE...

DID YOU SMELL IT WHEN THE RAPPING SOUND STARTED?

HEY, WASN'T THERE A STRANGE SCENT DURING OUR RYOKURYOU CASE ALSO?

THEN IT WAS PROBABLY THE SCENT OF THE SPIRITS.

I SEE...

HMMM

YES...BUT ONLY A FLICKERING GLIMPSE, SO I DIDN'T SEE IT WELL.

ACTUALLY, I WAS DISTRACTED BY THE SCENT OF BLOOD.

HEY, WHAT FORM DID THE SPIRIT TAKE? DID YOU SEE IT?

...MAI-SAN?

YES?

HMMM... AND THERE-FORE...

WH-

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME A QUESTION LIKE THAT?

I'M JUST SHOWING YOU PROPER RESPECT.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

SINCE IT WAS ONLY YOU WHO SAW THE SAME VISIONS I DID ON OUR LAST CASE.

SIGH!

RESP-

FOR ME!?

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY THIS TIME.

YES... BUT NOT ON THIS CASE.

—OH... SAKAUCHI'S CASE...

VISIONS ...?

WE'RE JUST JOKING.

EHEHEH!

WHAT? ARE YOU TWO GETTING ALONG?

THAT'S RIGHT... SO YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT IN ANY DANGER LIKE LAST TIME.

WELL...

I WOULD NEVER USE SUCH VULGAR LANGUAGE, AS YOU DO.

NOOOO...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

I'M USUALLY NOT LIKE THIS.

...AND IN YOUR HEAD ALSO.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

YOU SURE DON'T HAVE A VERY CHARMING PERSONALITY!

I WOULDN'T SAY SO OUT LOUD.

ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME!

CAN'T YOU TWO TRY TO GET ALONG?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALSO"!!

HMMPH!

WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?

GET ALONG...?

BECAUSE, UNLIKE SOMEONE, I AM BLESSED WITH LOOKS AND TALENT.

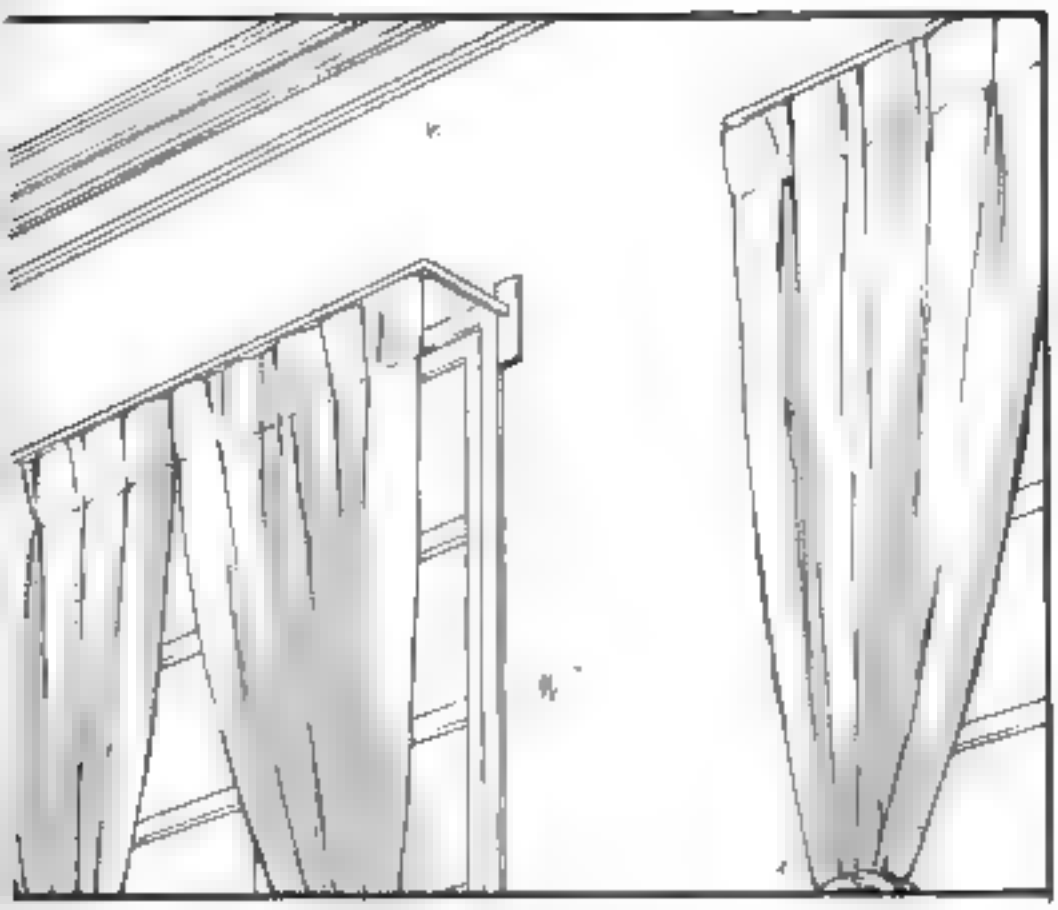
MAN...

.....

WHY DO YOU DESPISE ME!?

LOOK INTO YOUR OWN HEART AND FIND OUT.

DRIPPP
DROPP
STAGGER
DRIPPP
STAGGER
STAGGER
STAGGER
STAGGER
DRIDDD
STAGGER



HAS ANY-ONE SEEN SUZUKI-SAN?
PLEASE...

WHAT?
SUZUKI-SAN'S VANISHED.
OH–
MORNING.
WHAT'S WRONG?

WELL, HAVE YOU/?

WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING SHE WAS GONE...

BUT SHE WAS DEFINITELY SLEEPING WHEN I WOKE UP ONCE AROUND DAWN.

HOW ABOUT WHEN YOU WOKE UP LATER?

BY "DAWN," WHAT TIME DO YOU MEAN?

IT WAS AROUND SEVEN O'CLOCK.

I DON'T KNOW...

...IT'S TEN NOW.

THEN SHE HASN'T BEEN SEEN FOR AT LEAST THREE HOURS.

SHE COULDN'T HAVE LEFT. HER LUGGAGE IS STILL HERE.

PLEASE TRY TO CALM DOWN, IGARASHI-SENSEI.

EVEN HER CONTACT LENS CASE...

WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE SUZUKI-SAN?

I ASKED THE STAFF, BUT NO ONE HAS SEEN SUZUKI-SAN.

AND THERE'S NO WAY TO LOCK IT FROM THE OUTSIDE WITHOUT THE KEY.

THE FRONT ENTRANCE IS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE. WE CHECKED AND IT WAS STILL LOCKED THIS MORNING.

IT'S OMASHI-SAN.

THANK YOU, AND PLEASE BE PATIENT.

I AGREE.

LIN AND I WILL CHECK LAST NIGHT'S VIDEO RECORDINGS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, NARUMI-KUN?

SHE MAY HAVE GOTTEN LOST SOMEWHERE. LET'S SEARCH THE PREMISES FIRST.

WHOA, A DEAD END!!

OH, IT'S IGARASHI-SENSEI.

WE'RE NOT GIVING UP YET.

LET'S TAKE A BREAK. IT'S TIME TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE OTHERS.

SIGH

OKAY... I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.

DOESN'T HE SEEM UNCHARACTERISTICALLY SOMBER?

I CAN'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD.

WELL, THAT'S...

WE'VE ARRANGED FOR A MEAL. AND LET US KNOW IF THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY WE CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE.

I JUST HEARD. WHAT A DREADFUL TURN OF EVENTS!

HUH?

UM, MINAMI-SAN...

COULD YOU ASK DR. DAVIS?

GASP

UH—

I BEG YOU, COULD YOU PLEASE JUST ASK...?

WELL...I'M NOT SURE THAT...

THIS IS SUZUKI-SAN'S CONTACT LENS CASE.

WOULD HE PERFORM A PSYCHOMETRIC READING ON IT?

VERY WELL. I'LL TRY ASKING.
HMM
THE DOCTOR CAN ONLY SENSE FROM SOMETHING THAT WAS WITH THE PERSON AT THE TIME OF THEIR DISAPPEARANCE.
WHAT IF WE TRY SOMETHING ELSE...
HE'S UNABLE TO SENSE ANYTHING FROM THIS.
TANIYAMA-SAN!
DOES THAT MEAN YOU CAN'T TELL IF SHE'S HERE!?
SO—
THAT CAN'T BE—!

TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SO IRRESPON-SIBLE.

WHAT?

COULD SHE HAVE BEEN SCARED BY THE SÉANCE AND THEN FLED BACK HOME?

W-WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE!

T-THAT'S RIGHT. THIS... SUZUKI-SAN...

TANIYAMA-SAN.

!

SENSEI...

YES... AND I WILL REPRIMAND HER.

SHE'LL CALL ME LATER....

SHE PROBABLY WENT HOME.

I THINK SO.

.....

THAT'S PROBABLY IT.

WHERE COULD SHE HAVE VANISHED TO?

I'M SURE IT WILL TURN UP IN OUR SEARCH.

IF THERE REALLY IS A SECRET ROOM HERE, WE'LL FIND IT.

3.21

HOW MANY METERS?

NOTHING WAS RECORDED ON LAST NIGHT'S TAPES.

SUZUKI-SAN?

THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER WITHIN OUR SEARCH RADIUS EITHER.

UNLESS SHE REALLY DID DISAPPEAR OF HER OWN ACCORD.

IF SHE VANISHED AGAINST HER WILL...

THIS SPIRIT ASKED FOR "HELP."

WOULDN'T IT BE ODD IF THE PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED WERE THE SAME ONES WHO ANSWERED THE PLEAS FOR HELP?

IF THE THREE VANISHINGS ARE THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT...

BUT DIDN'T TWO OTHER PEOPLE DISAPPEAR HERE BEFORE?

SO COULDN'T THIS BE THE WORK OF SPIRITS AS WE SUSPECTED?

WEREN'T THE ONES WHO DISAPPEARED ALSO THE ONES WHO WERE TRYING TO HELP THOSE WHO DISAPPEARED EARLIER?

HMMM?

OH! THAT'S RIGHT...

OR MAYBE...

SHOCK

WE DID SEE SOME STRANGE WORDS AT LAST NIGHT'S SÉANCE.

OH!

THEN PERHAPS ...

THOSE OF US HELPING TO FIND SUZUKI-SAN MIGHT DISAPPEAR, TOO?

THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT HOW ABOUT THE WRITING IN BLOOD AND THE RAPPING SOUNDS?
MAYBE WHEN SUZUKI-SAN WROTE THOSE WORDS, THE REAL SPIRIT GOT ANGRY AT HER...
AND WROTE THE SAME WORDS IN BLOOD.
HELP HELP
AND SHE FLED TO AVOID BEING EXPOSED.
IT WAS SUZUKI-SAN HERSELF AND NOT THE SPIRIT WHO WROTE THOSE WORDS LAST NIGHT...
WAAA !?
THERE IS A REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WAS A TRICK...
YES...
THE BLOOD WRITING MUST HAVE SOME MEANING...
YEAH.
THE FLOOR'S UNEVEN HERE.
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY!?
OW OW OW
JOHN!?

SHALL WE OPEN IT?

IS IT A DOOR?

OR A PASSAGE-WAY?

CREEAKKK

HERE WE GO

HEY...

HMM?

WHOOSH

THAT'S MUSTY!

WHOA !?

THERE'S A ROOM DOWN THERE.

NO WAY.

A SECRET ROOM...?

GHOST HUNT

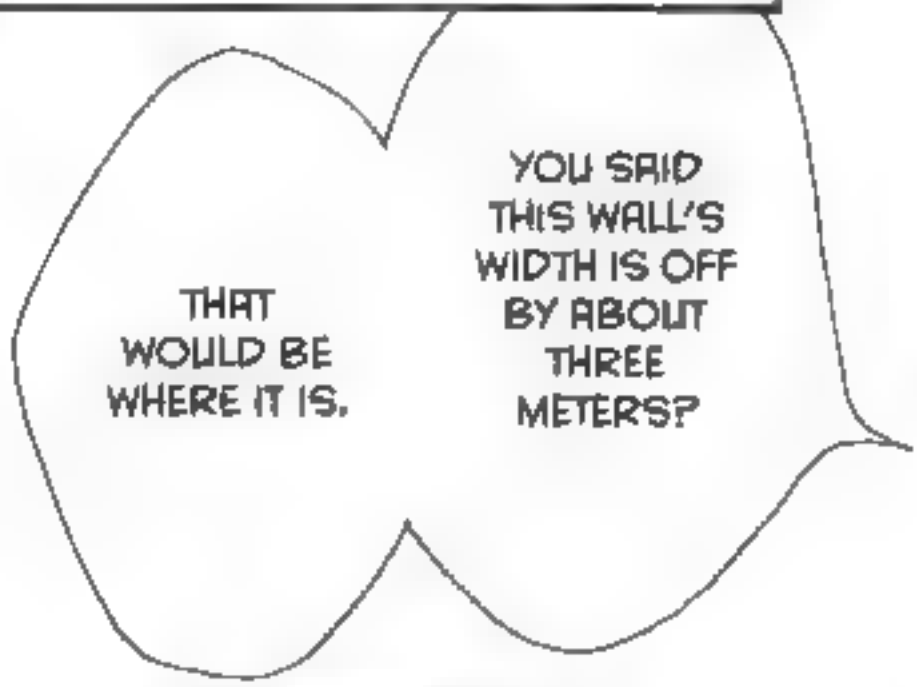
THE BLOODSTAINED LABYRINTH

FILE 4

YEAH! THERE REALLY IS ONE.
LOOK, IT'S RIGHT HERE!

A SECRET ROOM?

WE DID A QUICK SEARCH INSIDE AND FOUND THIS.


THAT WOULD BE WHERE IT IS.
YOU SAID THIS WALL'S WIDTH IS OFF BY ABOUT THREE METERS?

A COAT?
AND LOOK AT THIS...

I THINK SO.
THESE MUST BE HOSPITAL-ISSUED SUPPLIES.
ISN'T THAT THE HOSPITAL THE FAMILY ANCESTOR BUILT?
PROPERTY OF MIYAMA CHARITY HOSPITAL
THERE'S SOME-THING IN THE INNER POCKET.
RUSTLE
BUT WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE IT WAS THIS IN THAT ROOM?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
HM? IS THIS WRITING ON IT?
OH, WOW! LET ME SEE, LET ME SEE!
ISN'T THAT ANCIENT MONEY

...DIE...

ALL-
ARE

RE?
CAME...

...TO-
LISTEN...

...URA...?

-OUT...

UH?

THIS CAN'T JUST BE SOMEONE'S DOODLING.

NIPPON GINK

THAT'S REALLY WHAT IT SAYS!

LOOK FOR YOURSELF!

WHAT KIND OF JAPANESE IS THAT?

WHY WAS THIS WRITTEN ON IT...?

"DEATH"...

HUH?

ONCE WE HAVE MORE ACCURATE DATA, IT'LL BE EASIER TO SEARCH FOR SUZUKI-SAN.

LET'S FINISH THIS FLOOR'S MEASUREMENTS BEFORE THE SUN SETS.

THE RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

YES

BECAUSE HIS EXPERTISE IS DEALING WITH PEOPLE, RIGHT?

INTE-LECTUAL WORKER

MANUAL WORKER

HUH?

PRESIDENT—UH, ASSISTANT NARUMI-SAN, SHOULDN'T YOU BE HELPING US?

YOU WANT THAT DONE BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER?

GIVE US A BREAK!

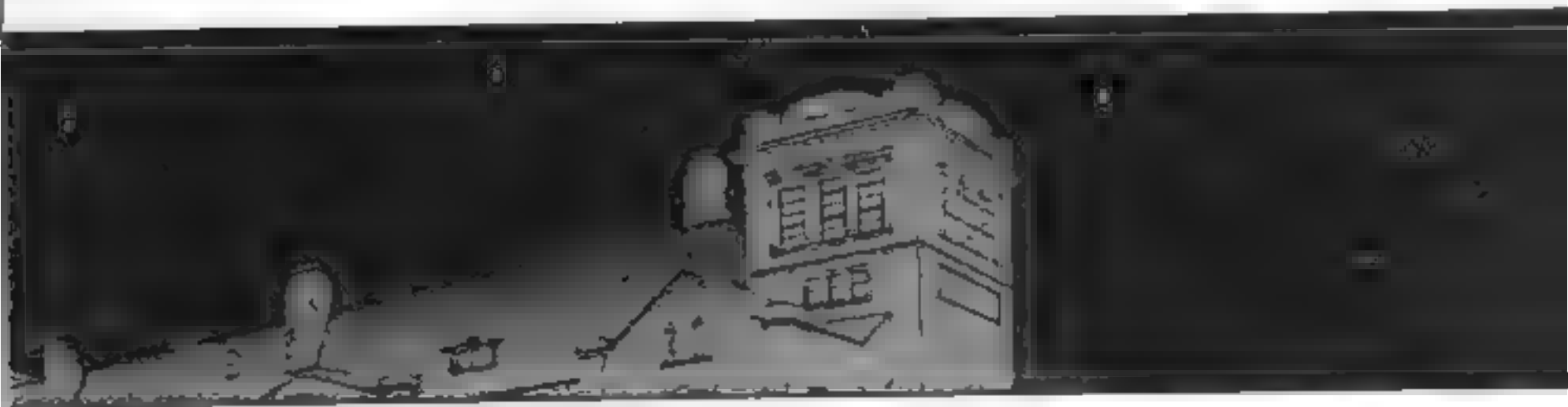
IGARASHI-SENSEI...
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
YES... UM...
AH...
PARDON ME.
SO I WISH TO CONSULT SHIBUYA-SAN...
BUT, AS WE FEARED, SHE HASN'T BEEN HOME YET.
I TRIED TO CALL SUZUKI-SAN'S HOME A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
THAT'S RIGHT...
WE'VE ONLY JUST STARTED SEARCHING...
I WONDER IF I SHOULD FILE A MISSING PERSONS REPORT WITH THE POLICE.
AH...

I THINK WE SHOULD TRY SEARCHING A LITTLE LONGER BEFORE WE REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE.

AGREED?

YES...

ALL RIGHT.



IGARASHI-SENSEI SEEMS DEVASTATED.

I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT...?

HOW CAN WE SEARCH FOR SUZUKI-SAN WHEN THERE ARE STILL SO MANY ROOMS WE HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED?

WHAT? ARE YOU WHINING?

MUNCH

FROM THE ONE WHO DIDN'T EVEN UTTER ONE WORD OR SAY, "LET ME HELP."

UH.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR MEASUREMENTS.

SO DID YOU!

MATSUZAKI-SAN DID HAVE MANY COMPLAINTS THE ENTIRE TIME, BUT...

RIGHT.

WHAKKK!

RIGHT, MASAKO?

I'M EXHAUSTED FROM WALKING ALL OVER THIS PLACE SEARCHING FOR SIGNS OF GHOSTS/

I'LL BE FINE. IF I GO NOW, THERE'LL BE PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY.

DON'T GO ALONE/

CLATTER

I'M GOING TO HEAD BACK TO BASE EARLY.

THANKS FOR DINNER.

WE'LL HEAD OUT SOON, TOO.

BYE!

UHH...

BUT THIS PLACE GETS DARK AND CREEPY AT NIGHT.

I'M NOT WORRIED WHEN EVERYONE'S AROUND...

EEEK

TP TP TP TP

WHOA

SQUEEEEK

MADE IT!

PANT

UM...
LIN-SAN
I'M DONE EATING, WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO RELIEVE YOU?
HE DIDN'T EVEN TURN AROUND TO SEE WHO IT WAS.
INSINCERE SMILE
EHEH
BETTER HAVING HIM HERE THAN A GHOST, BUT
CLICK
WOW, IT'S JUST LIN-SAN HERE.
OH, REALLY?
I'M FINE.
THAT MEANS NARU'S ALONE, TOO.
THEN YOU'RE HERE ALL ALONE, LIN-SAN? THAT'S DANGEROUS!
NARU IS AT OHASHI-SAN'S PLACE.
YASUHARA-SAN AND BROWN-SAN WENT TO CHECK ON IGARASHI-SAN.
WHERE'S...
NARU AND EVERYONE?

SO?

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, AREN'T YOU CHINESE, LIN-SAN?

OH

KLIKK

GRRRR

I'LL BE FINE.

YOU STUBBORN LITTLE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'LL BE "FINE"?

I HATE THE JAPANESE.

MAN...

TALK ABOUT BEING UNSOCIAL...

HMMPH

IT'S NOTH-ING.

OH, NEVER MIND. I GUESS THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT...

SO... UM...

STONY LOOK

SHIVER

I HATE THE JAPANESE, AND LIVING AMONG THEM MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THE JAPANESE DID IN CHINA A LONG TIME AGO?
WHA—
WHAT DID YOU...?

THEN YOU APPROVE OF WHAT JAPAN DID?

ISN'T WORLD HISTORY FILLED WITH INVADERS AND THE INVADED/?

BUT—

BUT BEFORE THAT, CHINA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MONGOL INVASION...

MY HEART'S REALLY POUNDING...

AND I HAVE A LUMP IN MY THROAT.

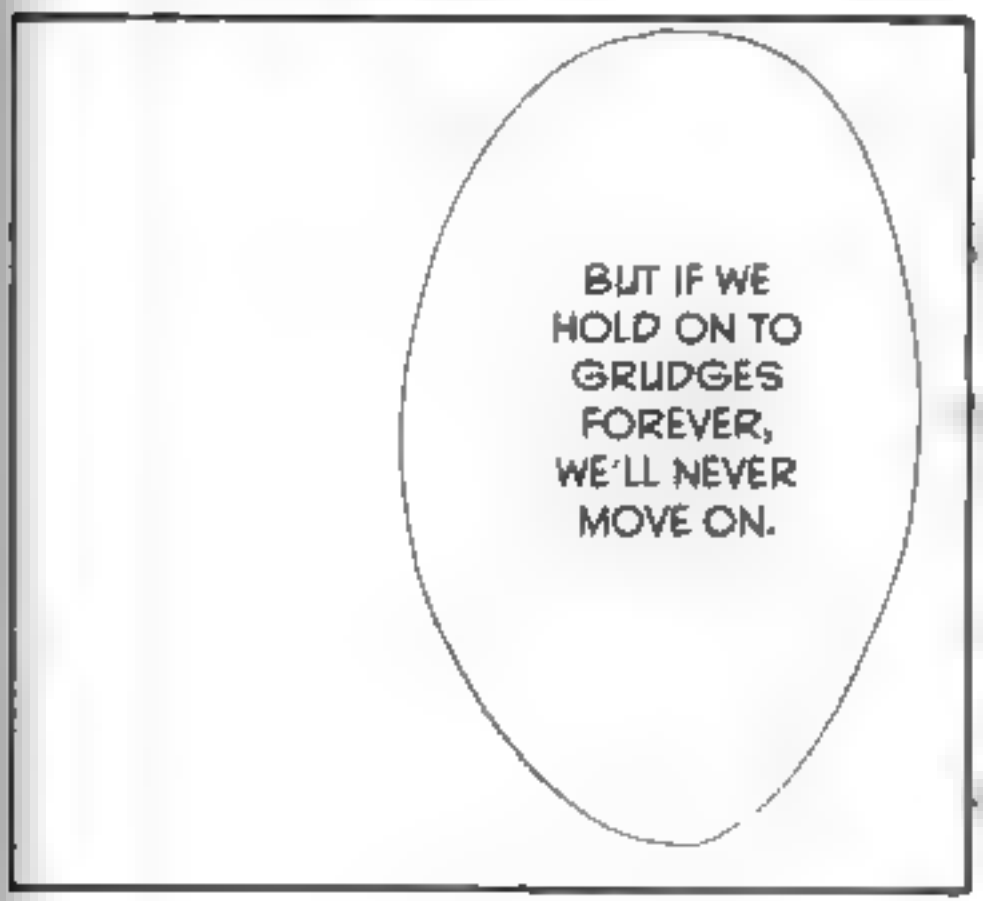
NO, I DON'T!

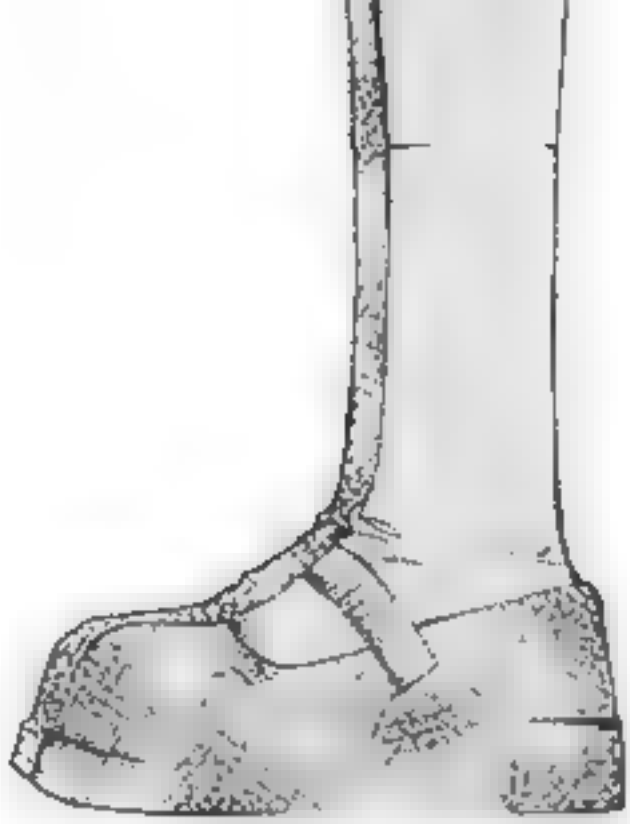
I DIDN'T SAY THAT...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

BUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

I FEEL SO DISORIENTED...





IT'S UNFORTUNATE.

LIN-SAN, IT'S ONE THING IF YOU WANT TO HATE ME PERSONALLY.

IF WE HARBOR GRUDGES, WE'LL KEEP HATING EACH OTHER FOR ETERNITY.

BUT DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M JAPANESE...OR FEMALE...OR BECAUSE I'M AN ORPHAN!

THAT'S JUST WRONG. IT'S COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!

HEHE

HMMM

THOSE ARE THE EXACT SAME WORDS.

IS—

IS HE LAUGHING AT ME?

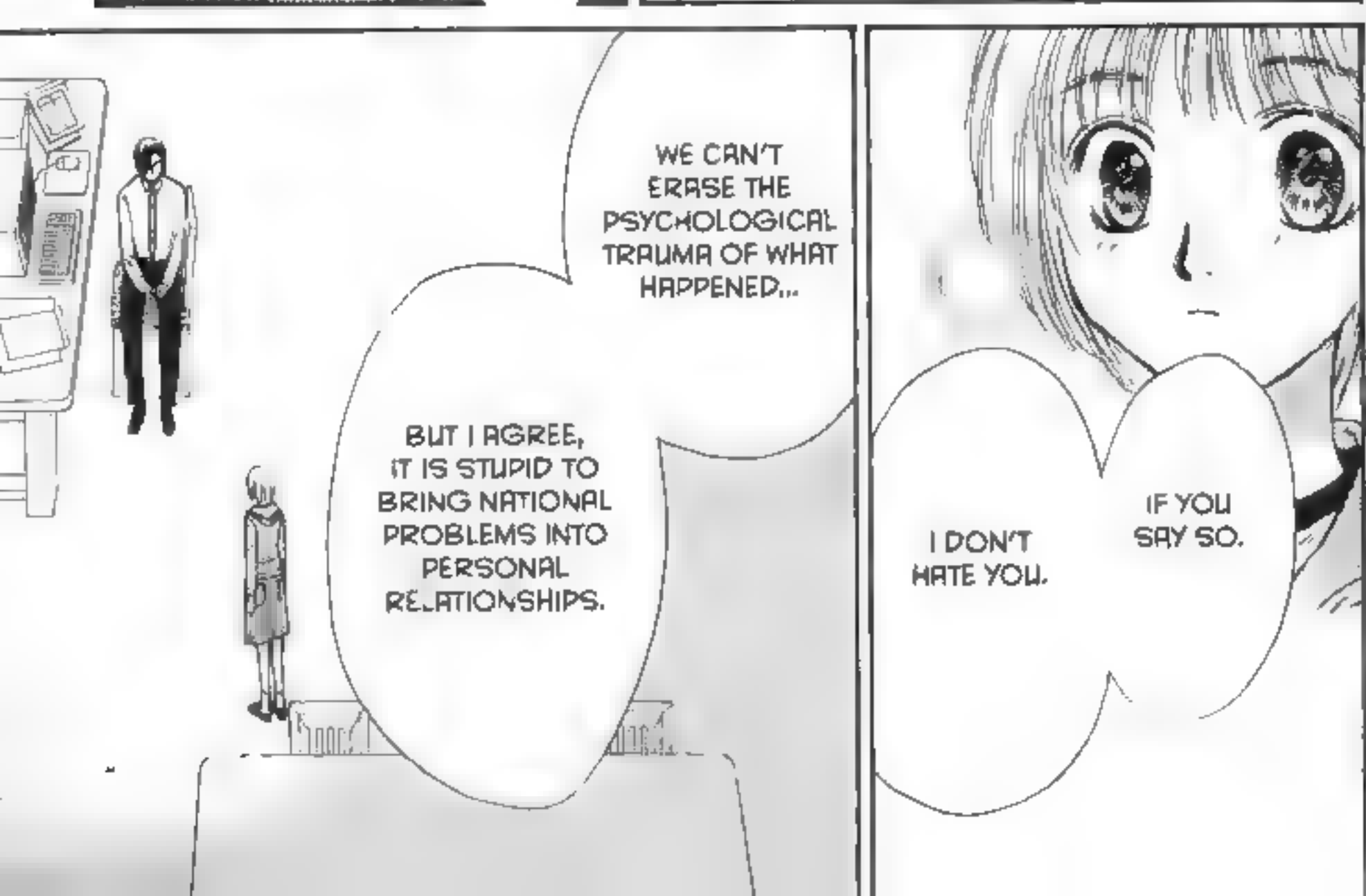
HUH...?

SOMEONE ELSE SAID THE SAME WORDS TO ME LONG AGO.

I REMEMBERED THEM WELL.

LIN-SAN IS LAUGHING...

YIKES..



I'LL DO MY BEST.

OKAY.

STILL, YOU SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS. IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO.

KREEAK

OKAY, OKAY! I'M SORRY.

THERE'S NO REASON TO SAY THOSE RUDE WORDS.

SCRITCH SCRITCH

HMM...

YEP, YEP, I'M FINE.

YOU SURE LOOK FLUSTERED, MAI. ARE YOU OKAY?

YES.

LIN, HAVE YOU ENTERED THE DATA WE MEASURED?

MAI, WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD FLOOR?

ONE SEC...

WHEN WE MEASURE THE SECOND FLOOR, WE'LL PROBABLY SEE THE SAME EMPTY SPACE.

SINCE OUR MEASURE-MENTS ARE STILL ACCURATE, WE CAN'T DISMISS IT...

BIIP!

IT LOOKS SMALL BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE.

THE EMPTY SPACE IS STILL THERE.

KLINK!

MAYBE WE CAN ENTER THAT ROOM WE SAW FROM THE TOP.

THAT'S ONE HUMONGOUS SECRET ROOM, ISN'T IT?

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S ON THE THIRD...

OR DOES IT? I THINK THE EMPTY SPACE MIGHT BE CONCEALED FROM ABOVE AT THE THIRD FLOOR.

KLINK

HEY, LOOK -

HUMP
MADOKA!?
I-
IT'S...
COMING IN...!
EEEEK!
OH, WOULDN'T YOU HAVE SAVED ME, NARU?
GRIN
I THOUGHT I'D COME OVER TO GIVE YOU THE RESULTS OF MY INVESTIGATION.
GOOD EVENING...
OKAY, I'LL GO STEP BY STEP...
FLIP
UH, STARTING WITH SUZUKI-SAN AND ANY CONTACT SHE HAD THIS MORNING.
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED?
THAT WAS DANGER-OUS.

ANYTHING ON THE TWO WHO VANISHED EARLIER?

...BUT, OF COURSE, THIS IS ASSUMING SHE WAS EVEN ABLE TO LEAVE THIS MANSION.

WE CAN'T RULE OUT HITCHHIKING...

I CHECKED WITH ALL THE BUS AND TAXI COMPANIES IN THE AREA.

NONE OF THE DRIVERS I SPOKE WITH REMEMBER A RIDER MATCHING HER DESCRIPTION.

ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 13TH, HE CAME HERE WITH SEVEN FRIENDS. THIS IS WHERE THEY LOST TOUCH.

THE FIRST TO DISAPPEAR WAS HIDEKI MATSUNUMA, AN UNEMPLOYED 18-YEAR-OLD.

UH-HUH.

WHILE THEY WERE PARTYING IN ONE OF THE ROOMS, HE JUST STAGGERED OUT AND NEVER RETURNED.

A SECOND MISSING PERSON...?

RIGHT.

WHEN THEY WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE IS WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THE SECOND MISSING PERSON, ONE OF THEIR OWN SEARCHERS.

WHEN THEY FILED A MISSING PERSONS REPORT A WEEK LATER, POLICE AND VOLUNTEERS SEARCHED BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND MATSUNUMA-KUN.

IT HAS A BRIEF HISTORY OF KANEYUKI MIYAMA AND HIS SON, THE ONES WHO BUILT THIS PLACE.

IT WAS A 21-YEAR-OLD MAN

THERE'S AN AUDIOTAPE IN HERE THAT WAS RECORDED AS EVIDENCE.

HUH?

WASN'T HE THE ONE WHO OWNED THE HOSPITAL NAMED "MIYAMA CHARITY HOSPITAL" FOR HIS PATRONAGE?

MIYAMA-SHI...

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

WHY DO I FEEL SO ON EDGE?

I'M FEELING QUEASY

POOF
WHO IS THAT?
NO...
DON'T... GO THERE. DON'T...
SHIVER

BAM! BAM!
YES...?
I'M...I'M SORRY. IT'S ME, MINAMI.
DO...DO YOU KNOW ATSUGI-KUN?
SOME-THING TERRIBLE IS...
...GO THERE.
PLEASE COME BACK!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!

WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM FOR TWO HOURS BUT WE CAN'T FIND HIM!

JUST TELL ME IF YOU SAW HIM...

MY ASSISTANT!

UH, WH-WHO...

THE DOCTOR HAS HELPED OTHERS WHO WERE IN DIRE SITUATIONS...

IS THERE A REASON YOU HAVEN'T ASKED DR. DAVIS IF HE COULD DO SOMETHING?

WELL... MINAMI-SAN...

MINAMI-SAN!

PARTICU-LARLY WHEN HE WAS OVERSEAS...

EVERYONE'S BEEN SO BUSY...

YES... BUT...

OR IS IT THAT IN THE BEGINNING WHEN YOU SAID YOU COULD CALL UPON FAMOUS MEDIUMS FOR HELP—WAS THAT JUST A LIE/?

HAVEN'T TWO MORE PEOPLE JUST DISAPPEARED, ONE OF THEM BEING YOUR OWN ASSISTANT?

ISN'T THIS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION/?

CLATTER
WHA...!
I WONDER IF DAVIS HERE IS THE REAL THING?
CAN WE TRUST ANYTHING THAT COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH?
YOU WERE BRAGGING SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR CONTACTS AND ACQUAINTANCES.
FINE! THEN WE'LL SOLVE THIS CASE BY OURSELVES!
LET'S GO, DOCTOR!
YOU'RE SHOWING CONTEMPT NOT JUST TO ME, BUT TO THE DOCTOR HIMSELF!
TH-THAT IS AN INSULT!
OH, HE ACTUALLY LEFT
STOMP STOMP STOMP

HEY, HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HE'S RIGHT. WE ONLY HAVE MINAMI-SAN'S WORD.

THE FACT IS, WE DON'T HAVE PROOF THAT DOCTOR IS FOR REAL.

BUT IF THE DOCTOR REALLY HAS AMAZING TALENTS, WHY HAVEN'T WE SEEN THEM EVEN ONCE?

NOT EVEN JUST NOW?

HEY, NO HAIR KNOTS

BLEAH

YOU WANT TO DESTROY A MAN'S DREAM?

DID THAT REALLY COME OUT OF MAI'S MOUTH?

I AGREE.

MINAMI-SAN MAY BE A FRAUD, BUT WE SHOULD STILL HELP SEARCH FOR ATSUGI-SAN.

THAT MUST BE IT.

YEAH BUT... BUT...

DRAGG
ゴ
ト
ン

DRAGG
DRAGG
DRIPPP

GHOST HUNT

THE BLOODSTAINED LABYRINTH

FILE 5

WHAKKK
MONK-SAN/?
OW!
COULDN'T YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT THREE SECONDS EARLIER?
NEXT TIME, I PROMISE
PRESIDENT-SAN...
THERE'S AN OVERHANG, SO WATCH YOURSELF.
OW-OW-OW-OW
THERE ARE STAIRS TO THE FRONT.
JOHN'S JAPANESE IS...
"PRESIDENT-SAN"...?

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS...

YEAH. HAHAHA.

BUT, INSTEAD OF MEASURING THE HEIGHT OF ALL THE STAIRS, COULDN'T WE JUST MEASURE A FEW?

THERE SEEM TO BE STAIRS ALL OVER THIS HOUSE'S CENTRAL AREA.

WE'LL HAVE TO MEASURE THEIR HEIGHT.

BECAUSE THE STAIRS MIGHT CHANGE.

BUT NARU-BOU WOULD NOTICE.

THAT'S RIGHT. FOR EXAMPLE, LOOK HERE.

AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU SEE EIGHT STEPS IN THE STAIRCASE. EIGHT STEPS GOING UP, EIGHT STEPS GOING DOWN.

...BUT LOOK AGAIN. THERE ARE ACTUALLY MORE STEPS GOING UP THAN GOING DOWN!

THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN EACH STAIRCASE IS DIFFERENT?

ARE THEIR HEIGHTS DIFFERENT?

WHAT? THEN INSTEAD OF ONE FLOOR, THERE MAY BE TWO SMALLER FLOORS

...IT'S TRUE.

WOW. YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHAT!?

THEN...

WE SHOULD MEASURE ALL THE STAIRS ONE MORE TIME.

IF WE MEASURE THE HEIGHT OF THE STAIRWAY ON THAT FLOOR, IT SHOULD BE DIFFERENT.

HMMM.

PERHAPS...

IN THIS SECTION, THERE AREN'T THREE FLOORS, BUT FOUR.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE GO JUST ONE FLOOR DOWN, THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER ROOM.

ONE OF THE FLOORS HAS AN EXTRA FLOOR BUILT WITHIN IT

IT'D BE GREAT IF WE ALSO FOUND THE MISSING PEOPLE.
AS WE GO THROUGH THE HOUSE AGAIN, WE MIGHT FIND MORE SECRET ROOMS.
AT ANY RATE...
AFTER WE MEASURE THEM, NARU CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN.
AH!
I FOUND A DOOR!
I'LL TRY TO OPEN IT...
ONE... TWO...
KREEAKKK
WHAT? HERE!?
CAN YOU FIT THROUGH?

BE CAREFUL.

WILL DO.

I'LL TRY GOING IN.

THERE'S A SMALL ROOM.

BAM

JOHN!?

KOFFF KOFFF

KOFFF

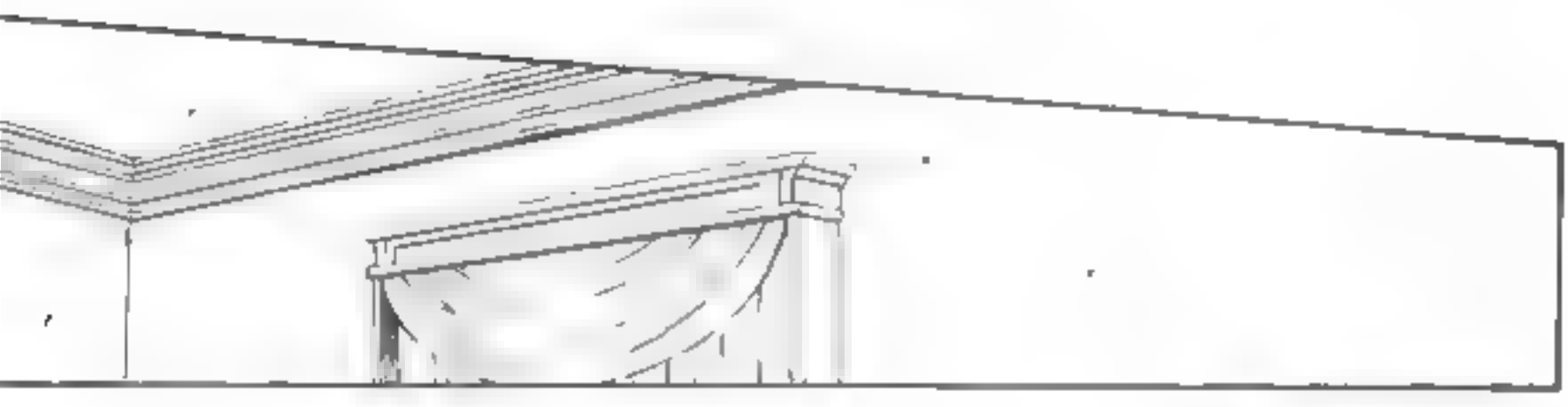
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING IN HERE, BUT...

I'M ALL RIGHT.

THERE'S SO MUCH DUST...

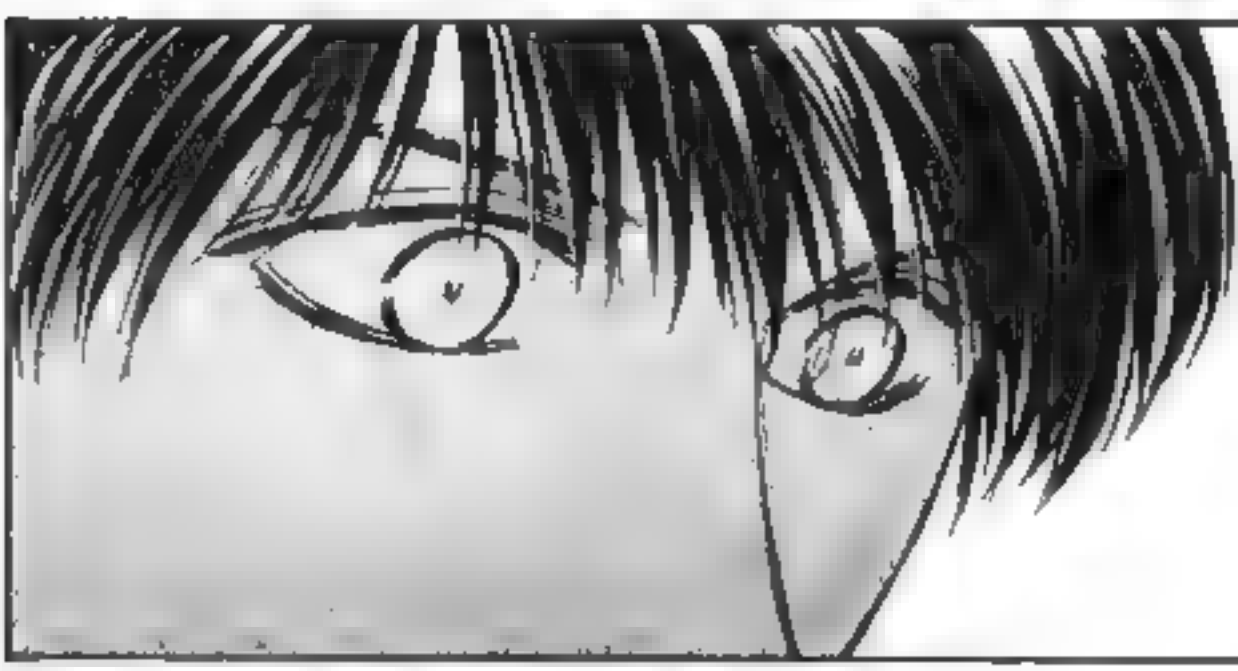
THERE'S A HUGE PORTRAIT!

WAIT, THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE WALL...



HERE'S A WET TOWEL.
THANK YOU!
IF WE ASK OHASHI-SAN, HE'LL PROBABLY KNOW.
WELL, SINCE THE SELF-PORTRAIT IS SO DECORATED, COULD IT BE MIYAMA OR A SON?

IT SAYS, "MEIJI 32, MARCH. SELF-PORTRAIT OF URADO."
BUT WHO IS THIS URADO...



RUSTLE
NIPPON GINKO
THERE'S "URA."
URADO

WH-WHAT IS IT?
RUSTLE
CLATTER

HMM?
?

URA?

WHAT IS IT?
IS THIS "URA"...
...WRITTEN HERE?

OH.
PON G

.....
HMMM...?
IF YOU LOOK AT AN ANGLE YOU CAN SEE A CHARACTER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STAIN.

THAT'S IT!

OH, I GOT IT, "URADO"!

HMMM...IF YOU WRITE "DO" HERE ...

SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

HUH?

IT'S "DO," ISN'T IT?

"URA-DO."

I'M LIKE, "HUH?"

UH...

OUT - URADO - BY - WERE - TO - LISTEN - DIE - ALL - RE - CAME"?

"DO" IS WRITTEN TO THE LEFT OF "URA."

WAIT A SEC.

IS IT JUST A BUNCH OF CHARACTERS?

IT'S STILL NOT RIGHT.

THAT CAN'T BE IT.

"DOURA"?

OH!

WASN'T HORIZONTAL WRITING READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT BACK THEN?

THIS IS WRITTEN IN THE MEIJI ERA FORMAT.

_ _ CAME
_ RE ARE ALL
DIE_ LISTEN
TO _ URADO
_ _ OUT

I THINK IT TRANSLATES SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

AND IF WE ADD THE GAPS WHERE WE CAN'T READ IT...

I THINK...

I CAN READ IT...

IF WE COULD READ THE FIRST CHARACTERS...

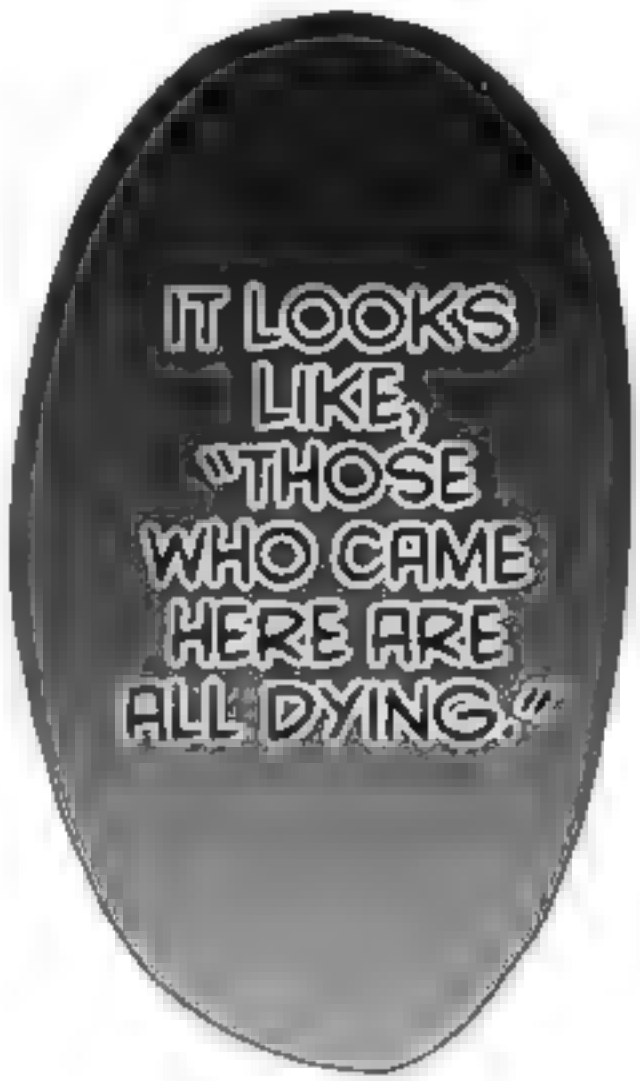
UH-HUH.

OH, THAT'S AMAZ-ING!

LET ME SEE

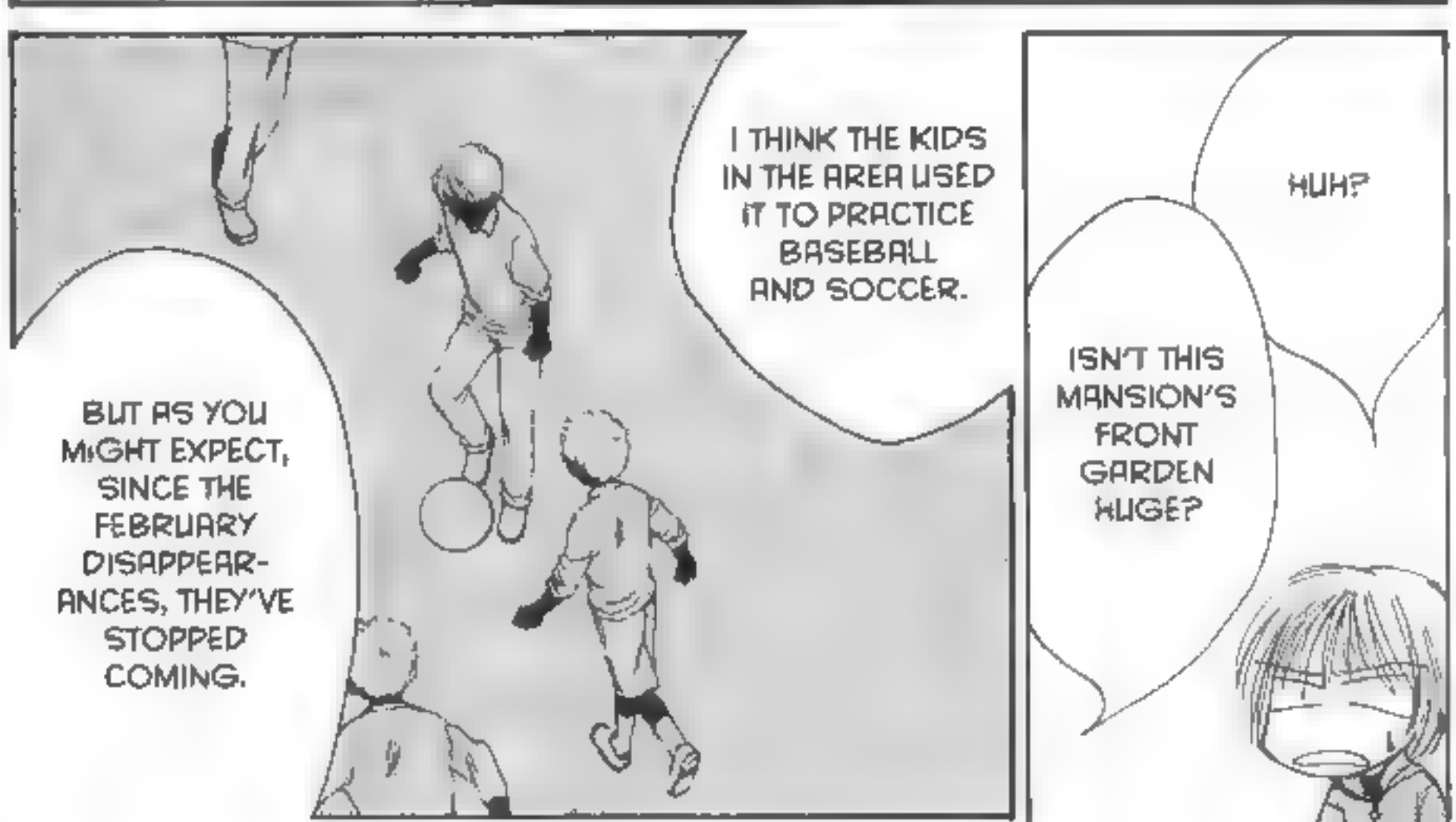
THIS IS A MESSAGE FOR SOMEONE.
THEN THE LAST CHARACTERS ARE EASY.
...ARE DYING?
"GET OUT."
"THE ONES WHO CAME HERE ARE ALL DYING..."
BONK BONK!

...."CAME HERE..."
"THOSE WHO"...


IT LOOKS LIKE, "THOSE WHO CAME HERE ARE ALL DYING."

MADOKA! DID I SAY TO COME BACK?
IT'S COLD
OH, I KNEW I WAS IN NO DANGER, SO I CAME.
I'M NOT AN IDIOT LIKE NARU.
HMMMPH.

THIS IS A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND.
NO DANGER?


I THINK THE KIDS IN THE AREA USED IT TO PRACTICE BASEBALL AND SOCCER.
BUT AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, SINCE THE FEBRUARY DISAPPEARANCES, THEY'VE STOPPED COMING.
HUH?
ISN'T THIS MANSION'S FRONT GARDEN HUGE?

WELL, HERE'S TODAY'S REPORT.

MANY UN-FORESEEABLE DANGERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH A GHOST HUNT.

IS THAT ONLY TRUE DURING THE DAY?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE DANGER IS ONLY INSIDE THE MANSION. THE OUTSIDE IS FINE.

OF COURSE, NONE OF THEM EVER WENT MISSING.

!

NARU...

H-

HE'S GIVING UP...

AS BEFORE, SHE WASN'T SEEN USING A BUS OR A TAXI.

UM, ATSUGI-SAN HAS ALSO DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE.

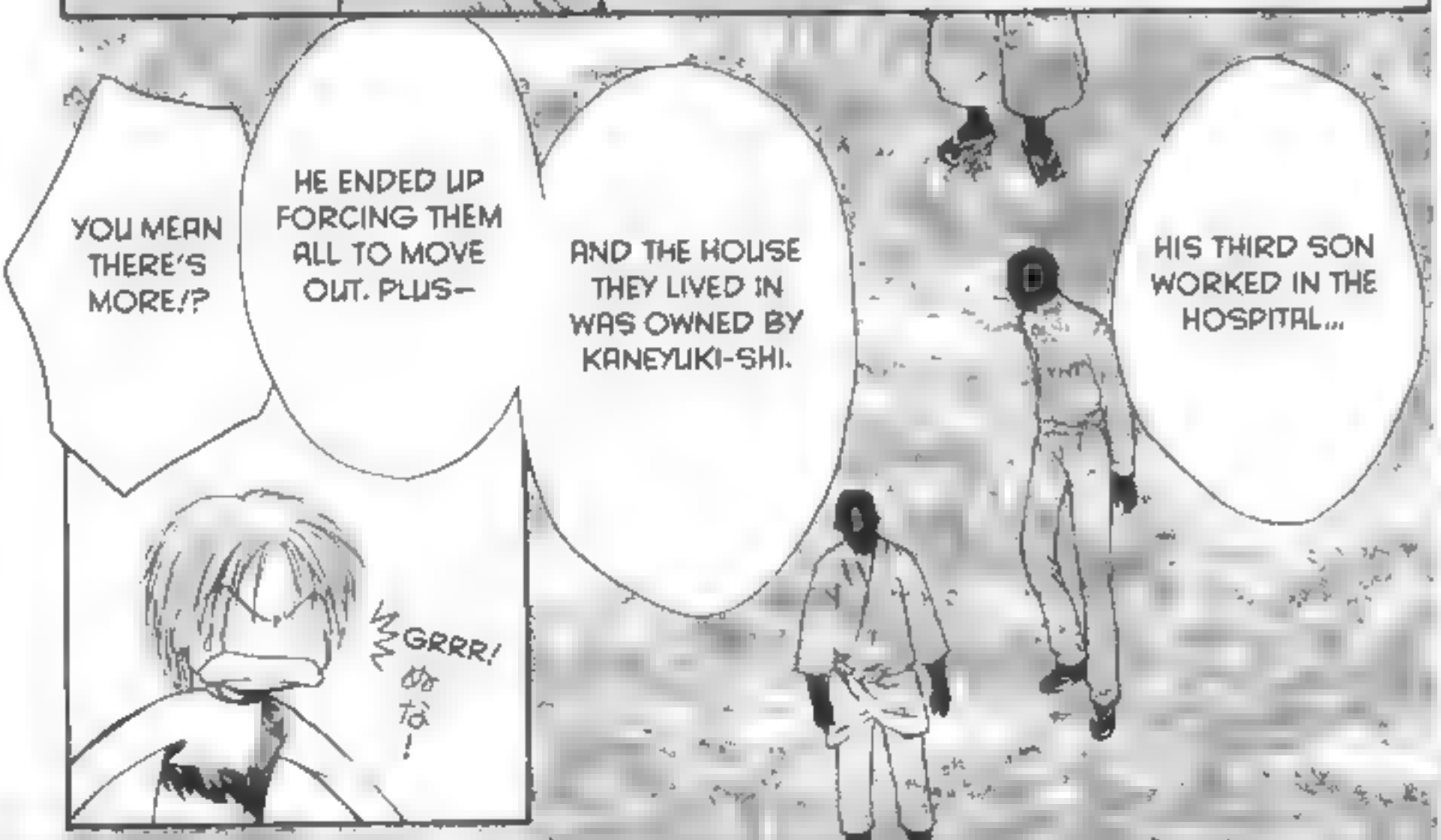
IT SEEMS HE WAS A FASTIDIOUS MAN.

APPARENTLY THERE WAS AN INCIDENT LONG AGO IN WHICH ONE OF THE SILK SPINNING WORKERS WAS CAUGHT FALSIFYING HIS WAGES.

BUT FIRST, KANEYUKI-SHI.

I DUG UP A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT MIYAMA AND HIS SON.

AH.
BUT HIS ELDEST SON ALSO WORKED IN THAT FACTORY.
AT FIRST, HE ONLY FIRED THE WORKER.


YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE!?
HE ENDED UP FORCING THEM ALL TO MOVE OUT. PLUS—
AND THE HOUSE THEY LIVED IN WAS OWNED BY KANEYUKI-SHI.
HIS THIRD SON WORKED IN THE HOSPITAL...
GRRR!

SO THEY WERE ALSO KICKED OUT.

THE MAN'S PARENTS WERE TENANT FARMERS OF KANEYUKI-SHI.
THE HOUSE...
WHERE HIS DAUGHTERS AND SON'S WIVES LIVED WAS ALSO RENTED FROM KANEYUKI-SHI, SO THEY WERE FORCED OUT TOO.

SINCE THEN, EVEN THE LOCAL FISHERMEN HAVE AVOIDED THE AREA.

HE HAD SERVANTS, BUT THEY CAME TO WORK FROM ANOTHER AREA.

SO SINCE HE KEPT ALMOST EVERYONE AWAY...

RUMORS SPREAD THAT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY WAS HAPPENING IN THIS MANSION.

WASN'T HE? IT TURNED INTO A BIG SCANDAL.

HOW CRUEL... HE WAS RUTHLESS.

SO KANEYUKI-SHI'S POPULARITY PLUMMETED.

HE RETREATED TO THIS MOUNTAIN VILLA TO AVOID CONTACT WITH PEOPLE.

UH-HUH.

PEOPLE BEGAN TO GOSSIP ABOUT THE REASON FOR HIS NON STOP HOUSE RENOVATING.

HIS SON HIDEYUKI-SHI...

BECAME A LITTLE WORRIED.

WORRIED?

TRAPPED SPIRITS...

SO THEY BELIEVED THE RENOVATIONS WERE TO SHUT THE SPIRITS IN...TO TRAP THEM.

THEY SAID THAT SPIRITS APPEARED.

OH!

THE PERSON IN THIS PORTRAIT—

URADO?

MISS, DO YOU KNOW IF KANEYUKI-SHI HAD ANY FRIENDS?

WAS THERE A PERSON NAMED URADO?

UNBELIEVABLE. KANEYUKI'S PEN NAME WAS URADO.

THAT'S KANEYUKI-SHI.

WAS HE REALLY AN ECCENTRIC...

THAT OLD FOGEY MAY HAVE BEEN A PHILANTHROPIST, BUT HE WAS ALSO AN ECCENTRIC.

"LISTEN TO _ URADO _."

IF WE ONLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT MEANT...

"THE ONES WHO LIVE HERE ARE ALL DYING."...

WHAT WAS IN HERE?

NATURALLY, "HERE" MEANS THIS MOUNTAIN VILLA.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY?

THE WORDS OF THE SPIRIT AT THE SÉANCE.

HUH?

...THERE IS SOME-THING

THAT UNDERSTOOD IT.

PLEH

OH...

CLEARLY, THAT WAS THE SPIRIT OF SOMEONE WHO CAME HERE AND DIED.

BUT WHY IS IT HERE INSTEAD OF IN A HOSPITAL?

AND MORE THAN ONE PERSON DIED HERE.

THE PERSON WHO DIED IN THIS MANSION...

HE PROBABLY OWNED THAT COAT.

"THAT WAS THE SPIRIT OF SOMEONE WHO CAME HERE AND DIED."

BLINK

PERHAPS THE MISSING PEOPLE...

SUZUKI-SAN AND THE REST WERE ALSO...

SQUEAAAK

...UH?

I'M PARALYZED...!

EEEEK

I'M...

OH...

WHAT DID NARU TELL ME ONCE...

IT'S GOOD THAT IT DOESN'T FEEL SCARY...

BUT THERE'S A PAINFUL RINGING IN MY EARS.

KLIK

FREQUENT PARALYSIS IS REALLY THE STATE OF SUCCESSFUL SEPARATION OF THE BODY, MIND, AND SOUL—

THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE MIND WAKES UP EVEN THOUGH THE BODY IS STILL ASLEEP IS A PHYSIOLOGICAL PHENOMENON.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SPIRITUAL PHENOMENA.

KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
WHEN YOU'RE HALF-ASLEEP, DOES PARALYSIS MEAN THE BODY CAN'T MOVE AT ALL?
NOW MY MIND CAN WANDER...
.....
KLIK
GASP
THEN THIS MUST BE...
SQUEEAKK

SHIVER

SQUEEAKK

...AYAKO...

MASAKO.

WAKE UP!

BUT... EVEN THOUGH THE DOOR WAS LOCKED...

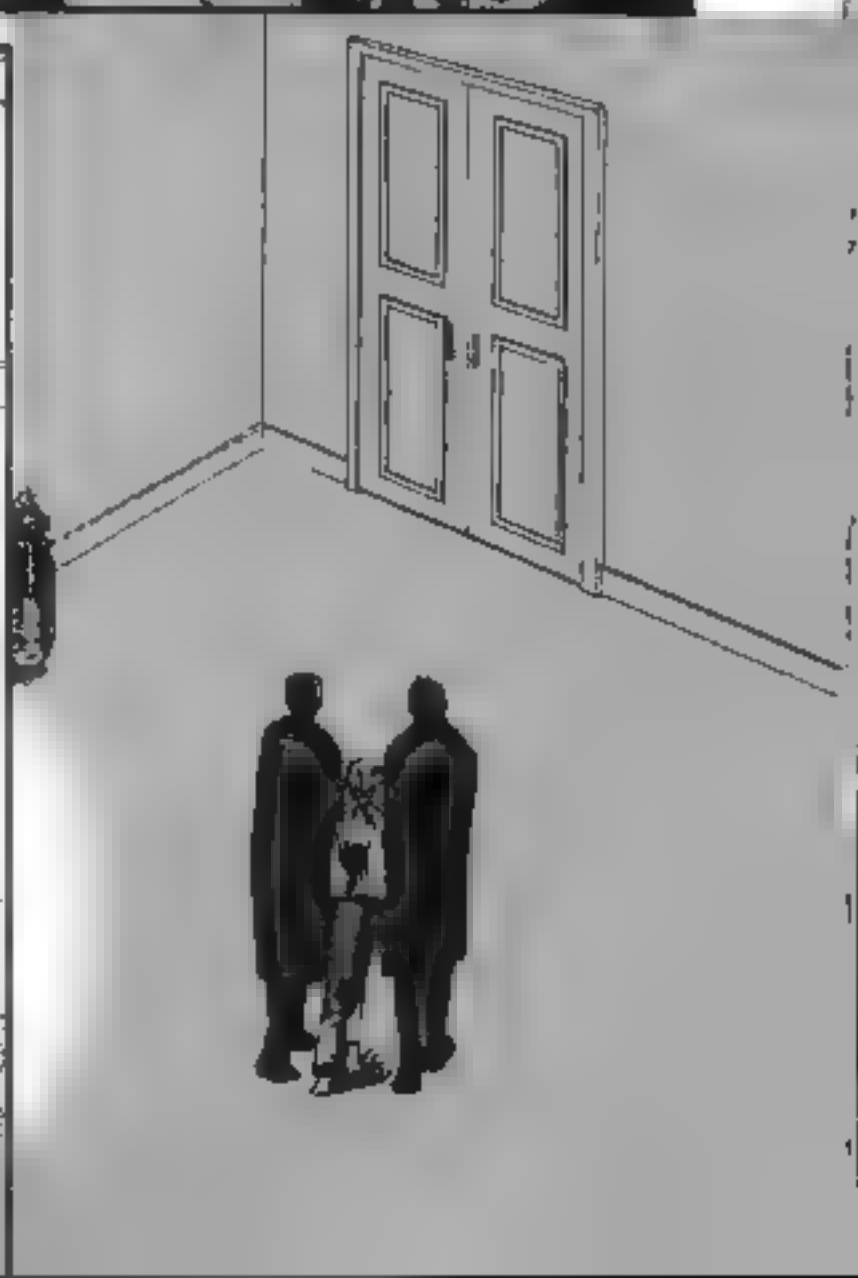
WHAT ARE THEY!?

NO FOOTSTEPS

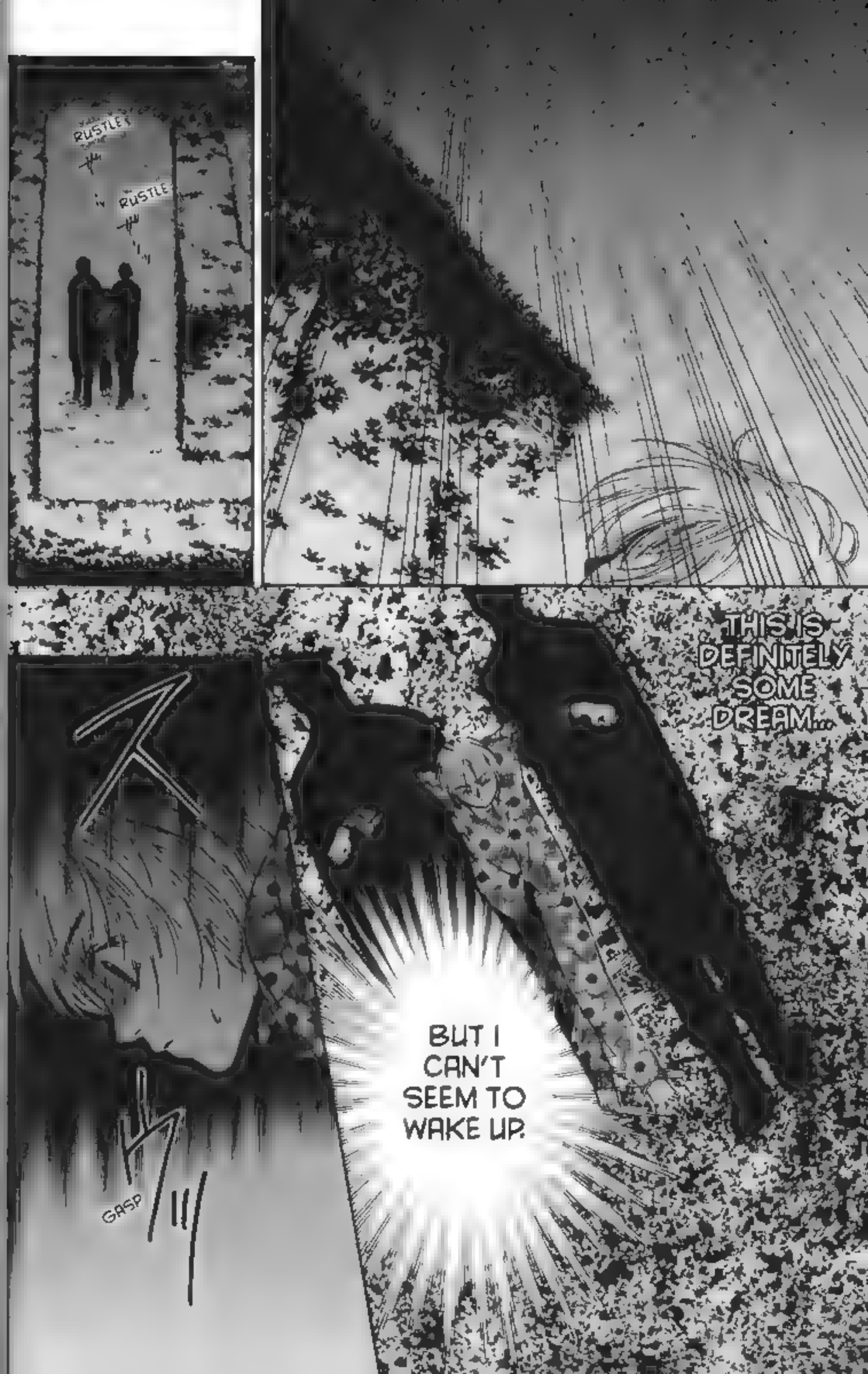
MY VOICE CAN'T...
MY VOICE...
GRPPP
HELP ME, AYAKO!
MASAKO...!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
WHAT IS THIS VOID?
WHERE ARE THE OTHER ROOMS?
AM I IN THE CORRIDOR?
WHY IS THERE NOTHING?
WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME?
KRAKKLE

KRAKKLE
KRAKKLE



NO...
I DON'T WANT TO GO.
I DON'T WANT TO GO ANY FARTHER!
KRICCH


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THIS IS DEFINITELY SOME DREAM...
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO WAKE UP.
GASP

ZAA
SMELL OF BLOOD
WHAT IS THAT STRONG...
I CAN'T STAY CONSCIOUS...
KOK
KOK

NO

KREAAAK

KREAAAK

KREAAAK

KREAAAK

KOFF

IT'S SCARY.
I DON'T WANT TO GO.
THIS ROOM IS TERRIFYING
DON'T—
IF I GO

GRPPP

WAIT/ THIS MUST BE...

GLIS-TENING BLACK WATER...

HUH
WHAT...
IS THIS KIMONO...
WAPP!

DROPPP
DRIPPP
BAM
GRPPP
SPLISH
SPLISH

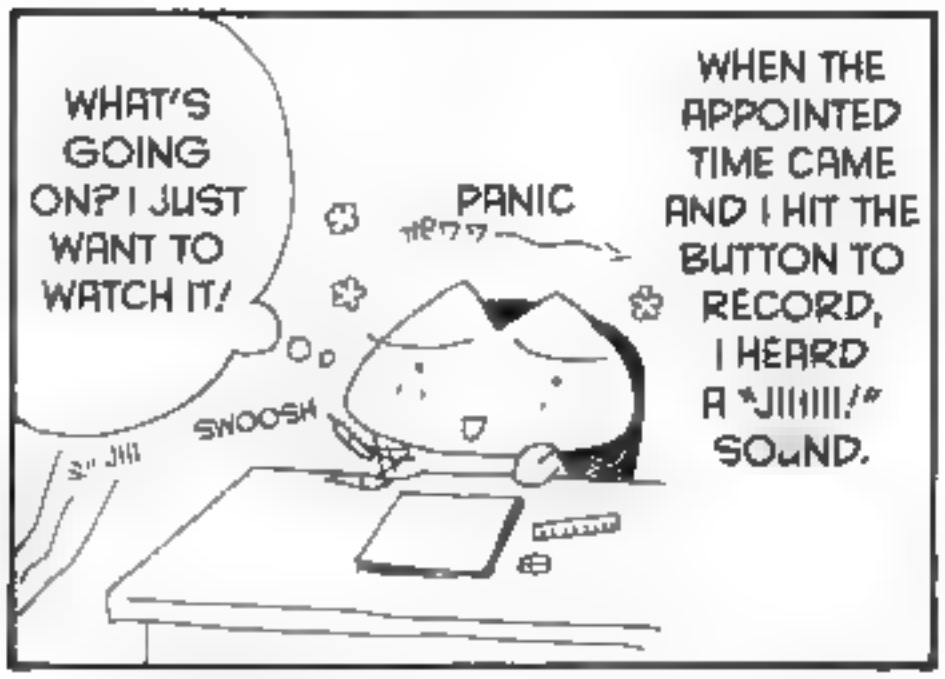
SPLASSH
OOOZE
SHAKE!
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
HELP
SOMEONE—
FLCKK

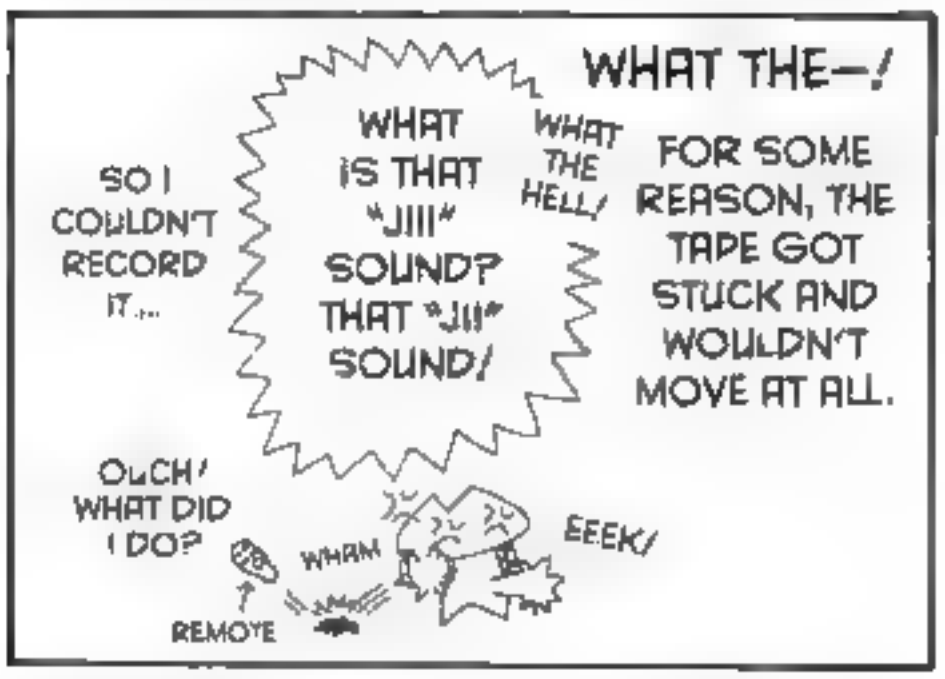
THIS IS A DREAM.
BEFORE THE WORST HAPPENS, I SHOULD WAKE UP.
I'M FINE. IT'S ONLY A DREAM.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
HURRY AND WAKE UP.

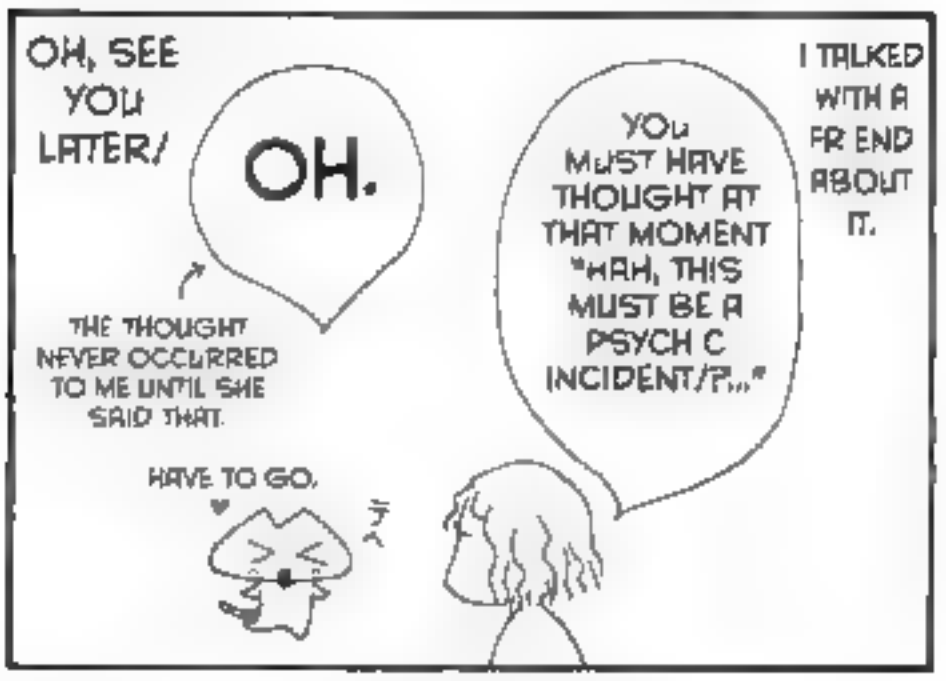
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
WAKE—
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE.
SHKKT

– CONTINUED IN VOL. 7 –

HORROR STORIES 3







RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN THINKING TO MYSELF: "I'M GETTING MORE TALENTED. (FINALLY!)"

SPECIAL THANX

- A SAKAMOTO
- M HONMA
- C INOUE
- T WATANABE
- M ŌKI
- H SEKIYA
- Y ARAI
- N KAJIWARA
- R ONO

editor T.KAMAGATA / K KAWAMOTO

and YOU!

LET'S MEET AGAIN IN VOL. 7.

S INABA

About the Creators of Ghost Hunt

ABOUT THE CREATOR

•

Shiho Inada

Born on October 17 in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Sign: Libra

Blood type: B.

She made her debut with *Camouflage* in 1994.

Her best-known work is *Ghost Hunt*.

ABOUT THE WRITER

•

Fuyumi Ono

Born in Oita Prefecture.

She made her debut with *Teen's Heart*, published on Kodansha X Library.

Her most popular works are the *Evil Spirit* series and the *Twelve Kingdom* series.

Her works are widely read, and although her novels are considered young adult fiction, her works are read by people from all walks of life.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

PAGE 26, *RIN-CHAN*

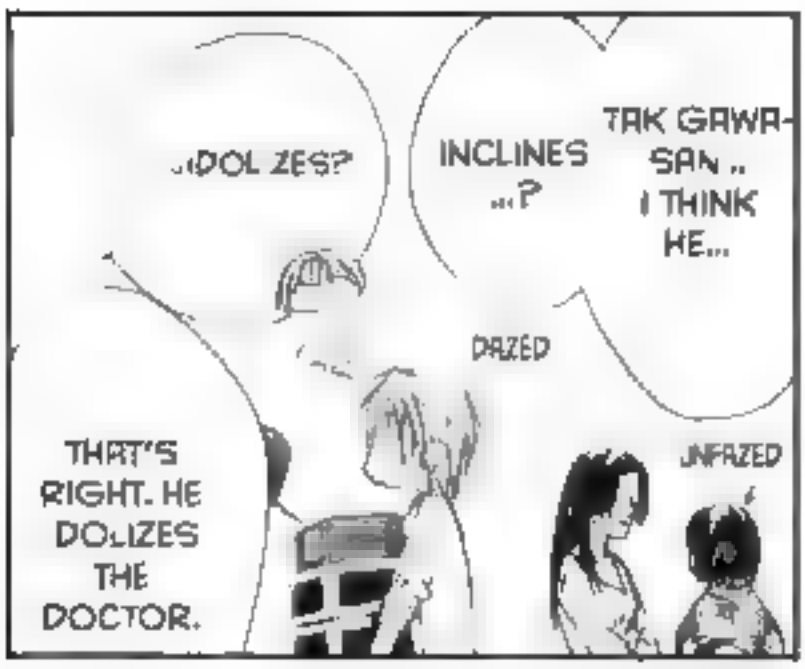
If "Lin" was our tall, dark, and handsome stranger's first name (instead of his family name), then he would have been called "Rin-chan" as a baby in Japan. The SPR members are joking at his expense since "Rin-chan" just happens to be what the Japanese call the famous Hollywood dog hero Rin Tin Tin.

PAGE 30, HOUSEN TEMPLE, DEFENSE ACADEMY, MINAMI PSYCHIC RESEARCH CENTER, BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH

Housen Temple and the National Defense Academy are actual cultural and governmental institutions in Japan, although neither would publicly admit to making psychic house calls. Like Shibuya Psychic Research, the Minami Psychic Research Center and British Society for Psychic Research are strictly fictional, although any similarities to the real Society for Psychical Research (founded by Cambridge University professors) in Great Britain are probably best left unexplained.

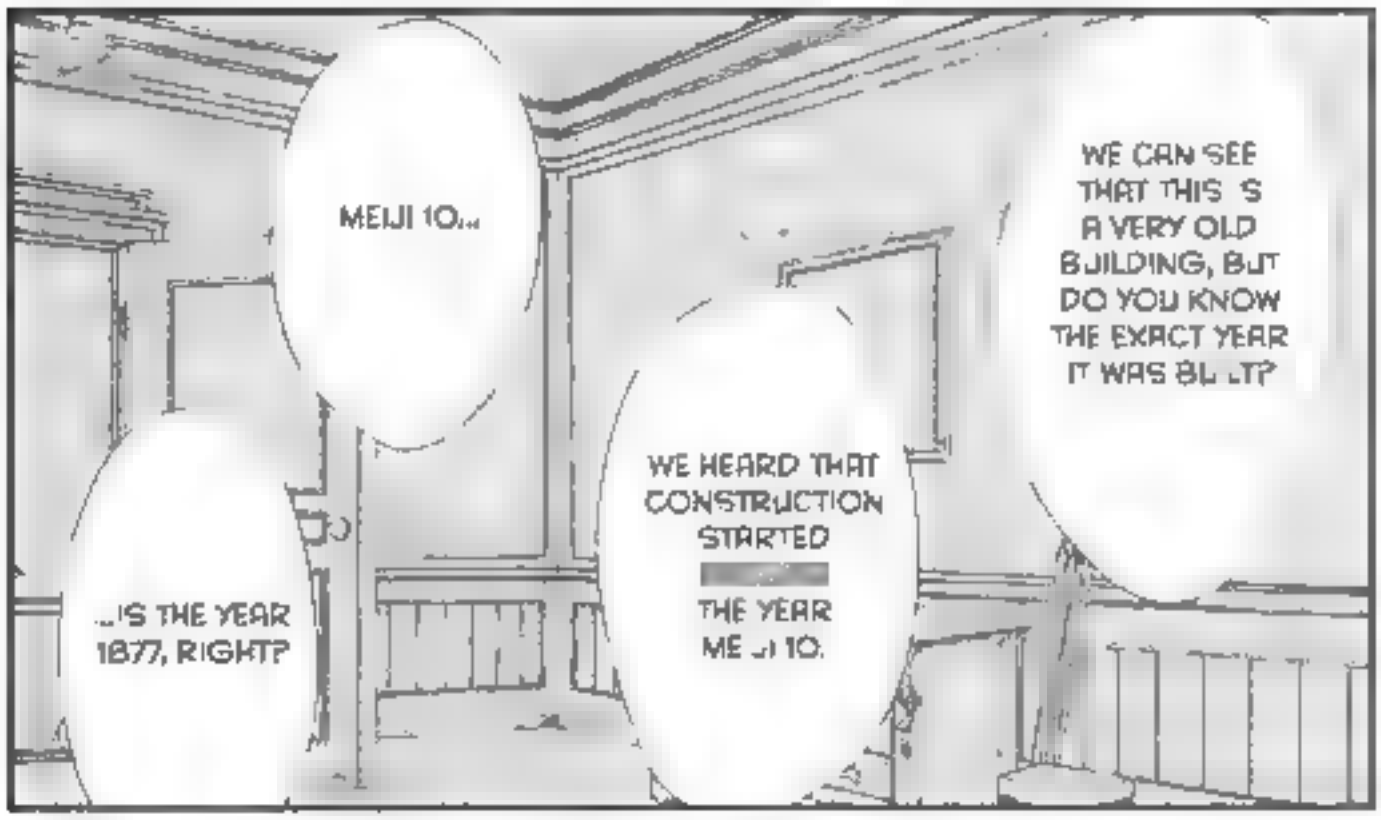
PAGE 31, ALEX "TAUNUS," URI GELLER

Alex *Tanous* and Uri Geller were internationally famous (and controversial) claimants of psychic abilities. Unfortunately, Alex Tanous passed away in 1990, before Ono-sensei wrote the 1991 novel (*I Don't Want to Become an Evil Spirit*) that inspired this manga. It is no coincidence that in that novel and this manga, Minami mentions the famous psychic Alex *Taunus* instead. (Notice the spelling.) For his part, Uri Geller is most famous for claiming to bend spoons with his mind on live television.



PAGE 32, "INCLINES" AND "IDOLIZES"

As a foreigner, John fumbles over the Japanese word for "inclines" *(keikou)* when he really means to say "idolizes" *(keitou)*.



PAGE 36, MEIJI 10

The Japanese number years by the reign of their emperors. For example, Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito) began his rule in AD 1868, so "Meiji 10" stands for the tenth year of Meiji's reign, or AD 1877.

PAGE 37, SUWA REGION

The Suwa region used to be an old mountainous province in central Japan. It is now part of the modern-day province of Nagano, the home of the 1998 Winter Olympics.

PAGE 38, KANEYUKI-SHI

Japanese speakers use "-shi" instead of "-san" when speaking formally about people with whom they are personally unacquainted. For example, newspapers use "-shi" when mentioning a person's name, and textbooks add "-shi" to almost every historical figure's name. Here, Naru calls the mansion's former owner "Kaneyuki-shi" because Naru knows Kaneyuki only from books and historical records.

PAGE 76, HOUREKI 8, TSUCHINOE TORA YEAR

When the monk Imura tests Yasuhara's cover story, Yasuhara claims he was born in the year Houreki 8, the ancient Japanese era name for 1758 AD. The ancient Japanese also borrowed another method of counting years from the Chinese via Korea. This method combined ten Chinese heavenly stems with the Chinese 12-animal zodiac. Tsuchinoe Tora (5th Sign, Year of the Tiger) is the fifteenth year of a sixty-year cycle.

PAGE 76, TENMEI FAMINE

Yasuhara proceeds to rattle off historical events in Japan to impress Imura-san with his cover story's family "history." Those historical events include the Tenmei Famine (1783–90), the Onin War (1467–1477), the Kemnu Restoration (1333–36), the Gen-pei War (1180–1185), Jinshin War (672), and the mythical fall of Queen Himiko's Yamataikoku nation (date uncertain).

PAGE 86, PARDON US

Out of politeness, Japanese people will often say *o-jama shimasu* when entering someone's home. It literally means, "Pardon my intrusion," but guests say this even when the host invited them in the first place.

PAGE 93, *NANMAKU*

The team is reusing the same *Tai-Mahou* (a type of Japanese counterspell) that it also used in volume 5. It is a Buddhist mantra *(Naumaku Sanmanda Bazaradan Kan)* dedicated to the deity Acala. It is difficult to give a literal translation in a foreign language; therefore, we have left it in Japanese to preserve its authenticity.

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